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FROM

*Prof J. B. Thayer*





THE INDIAN QUESTION.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY

HON. JOHN D. LONG,

*Governor of Massachusetts.*

Boston:

FRANK WOOD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

1880.



THE INDIAN QUESTION.

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REPORT

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COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY

HON. JOHN D. LONG,

GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*Boston Mass. committee on the  
Indian Question.*

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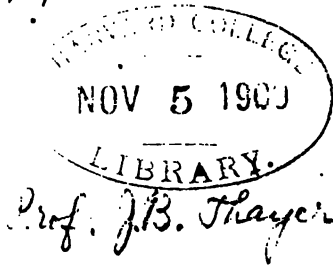
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- 1880.



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AT a public meeting of the merchants of Boston, held in the Exchange, on Tuesday, November 25, 1879, it was voted that a Committee of five be appointed, by the Chairman, to investigate the wrongs of the Ponca Indians, and the general management of all the Indian Tribes; and to report in print.

The Committee was appointed as follows:—

His Excellency THOMAS TALBOT, *Governor of Massachusetts.*

His Honor FRED'K O. PRINCE, *Mayor of Boston.*

Rev. RUFUS ELLIS, D.D.

Hon. JOHN W. CANDLER.

WM. H. LINCOLN, Esq.

The Committee met, and organized as follows:—

Hon. THOMAS TALBOT, *Chairman.*

WM. H. LINCOLN, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

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The Report was prepared by the Secretary, under the direction of the Committee.

TO THE  
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
THIS REPORT  
IS  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.



## THE INDIAN QUESTION.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE Committee appointed by Lieut. Governor John D. Long,—now Governor of the State of Massachusetts,—in pursuance of a vote passed at a meeting by the merchants of Boston instructing said Committee to investigate the subject relating to the removal of the Ponca Indians, as well as the general management of the Indian tribes, and to report in print, have given the subject the careful consideration its importance demands. It has been our earnest desire to obtain the exact truth of the Ponca case and the merits and demerits of the present policy of management of the Indians, as indicated by the results accomplished. Since the appointment of this Committee the discussion of Indian affairs has become more general; the public press has commenced to exercise its mighty influence in directing the attention of the people to this important and complicated question; and even the officials of the Department have sought, through the same medium, to justify their action and to exonerate themselves from charges that have been alleged against them. We regret that it has not been in our power to visit some of the more prominent tribes, or to hear the statements relating to the existing condition of affairs, the working of the present system, the grievances, the hindrances, the evils and the misfortunes to which they have been subjected, from the lips of the more advanced and intelligent of the Indians themselves.

The former was impracticable, and the latter was also so considered, inasmuch as it appears to be the policy of the Government to prevent the orators of the Indian tribes from appealing to the American people, though they have frequently desired to do so.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

Standing Bear, one of the chiefs of the Poncas, and Bright Eyes and her brother, children of the chief of the Omahas, are the only representatives of this race who have had the opportunity of appealing in person to the people of the country. Reliable as their testimony appears to be,—presented with more than ordinary ability, and confirmed by the Reports of the Government in many respects,—we have thought it best to base this Report upon the facts as set forth by the agents of the Indian Bureau and published in the Annual Reports; and the testimony of those agents, many of whom have lived among the tribes for years, and who have had opportunities that a visitor could not possibly secure, for forming correct opinions in regard to the wants of the Indians, as well as their present condition and possibilities for the future—we say such testimony from such sources is entitled to great weight and consideration. During the administration of General Grant a radical reform was established in the appointment of the Indian agents, and, unquestionably, a better class of men was secured. As a whole, we have been impressed with the apparent truthfulness and fairness of their statements, the zeal they have manifested for the welfare of those committed to their charge, and the boldness with which they have presented the failures and mismanagement of the Department.

Our conclusions are, therefore, based upon the official reports, and also upon what we believe to be the inherent justice of the cause itself. The first subject we are called upon to investigate is the alleged wrongs of the Ponca Indians. Have the Indians any rights that the Government of the United States is bound to respect? Are the solemn

treaties of the Government, made with the Indians, binding upon any other than the weaker party? Is the plighted faith of a great Government of any value when it is in the apparent interest of the Government to violate it? These are questions that are forced upon us when we consider the grievances of the tribe of Ponca Indians. It will be noticed that the reports of the different officials are not altogether consistent; but sufficient testimony can be gathered to form a reasonable conclusion. We consider first the

#### CAUSE FOR REMOVAL.

The Secretary says, in his Report of 1877, p. 7, that the removal was "resolved upon for the reason that it seemed desirable to get them out of the way of the much more numerous and powerful Sioux, with whom their relations were unfriendly."

In his Report of 1879, he states: "That the Poncas were grievously wronged by their removal from the location on the Missouri River to the Indian Territory, their old reservation having, by *mistake* in making the Sioux treaty, been transferred to the Sioux, has been at length and repeatedly set forth in my Reports," etc. The reason given in 1877 is probably a mistake, as in the Report of the Indian Commissioner the year previous, 1876, p. 31, it is stated: "During the year, the chiefs and head men of the tribe (Brule Sioux) asked for and obtained permission to visit the Ponca agency, for the purpose of making a treaty with the Poncas, with whom they had been on unfriendly terms for years. This treaty was effected and entered into with the best of faith."

Commissioner Hayt, in his Report for 1878, p. 467, states: "It should be remembered that their old reservation in Dakota was confirmed to the Poncas by solemn treaty, and at the time of making the treaty they received promises of certain annuities, in consideration of the cession to the United States of a large tract of land. That treaty, which is *still in force*, also recognized certain depredation claims which are still unadjusted. By a *blunder* in making the Sioux treaty of

1868, the 96,000 acres belonging to the Poncas were ceded to the Sioux. The negotiators had *no right whatever* to make the cession.

A stronger case against the Government it would seem to be difficult to present.

We must look for some motive for a removal beyond a mere mistake in making a treaty with another tribe, for it is an admitted fact that treaties with Indians have been made only to be broken when the cupidity of the white man was brought into action. We are led to inquire, What interest was subserved by the removal? Did the appropriation of money made for the removal have any influence? In the absence of any other motive, the presumption is that the greed of gain, at the cost of the spoliation of this inoffensive tribe and the agony and blood of the victims of this crime, was the true cause. That is to say, there were parties pecuniarily interested in this removal, who succeeded in effecting its accomplishment.

#### DID THE PONCAS CONSENT?

The law provided that the Poncas must give their consent. The manner in which this consent was sought to be obtained is discreditable and disgraceful, and such as would never be tolerated by any Christian community, or sanctioned by any court of justice.

Here, again, the Reports are inconsistent.

The Secretary states in Report of 1877, p. 7: "*The opposition it met with among the Poncas themselves and the hardships encountered on the march, are set forth at length in the Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*" Also on p. 8: "*Their removal from their old homes on the Missouri River was to them a great hardship. They had been born and raised there. They had houses in which they lived, according to their ideas of comfort. Many of them had engaged in agriculture, and possessed cattle and agricultural implements. They were very reluctant to leave all this; but when Congress had resolved upon their removal, they finally*

overcame that reluctance and obeyed." This, certainly, does not have the appearance of consent.

Commissioner Hayt says, in his Report same year, p. 417: "They at first disclaimed any wish to remove, and finally agreed to look at the Indian Territory, but were informed that the expense of sending a delegation could not be incurred without consent on their part to a surrender of their Dakota lands. Such consent was given by the Poncas in formal council, on the 27th of January, *with the understanding* that after the return of the delegation, final negotiations should be completed at Washington." It appears, according to this version, that the Indians made the very reasonable request that if they were to be forced to abandon their homes, they should at least be permitted to visit the promised land before signing the documents parting with their property. Strange to say, this was denied them, and they were told they must agree, in advance, to give up their property. If the Indians possessed a fractional part of the sagacity that has been accorded them, it can hardly be credited that they gave such consent. No special inducements appear to have been held out to them to do so. The result was, that the ten chiefs who went to see the country became disheartened, and eight of the number fled on foot in the dreary winter season, and at the peril of their lives, back to their homes. The tribe became "divided in sentiment," the Report continues, so that "forty-five troops were sent from Fort Randall for the protection of those who had signified a willingness to remove from the terrorizing tactics of the other party." Again, p. 418: "It having been determined that the removal of the tribe must now be insisted upon, troops were ordered to the Ponca agency." P. 419 states: "A delegation of the tribe recently visited Washington, and presented to the President their earnest request to be allowed to return to their old reservation in Dakota," etc. "The obvious unwisdom, and even impossibility, of removing a tribe *from* the Indian Territory, necessitated a refusal of their request."

They were promised assistance, etc., p. 419, "as would enable them to more than replace the property and improve-



ments *unwillingly relinquished* in Dakota." Again, the Commissioner in his Report of 1878, p. 467, states: "In this removal, I am sorry to be compelled to say the Poncas were wronged." We cannot discover any evidence in this Report that consent was given, except the bare statement named, which succeeding statements entirely controvert.

Agent Howard, p. 492 of same Report, states: "More than three-fourths of the tribe having refused to leave their old reservation in Dakota, stating, as reported to me, that they preferred to remain and die on their native heath in defense of their homes, etc., than to leave there and die by disease in the unhealthy miasmatic country which they claimed had been selected for them in the Indian Territory." Two councils were subsequently held. At the last one the Indians made demands for payment of lands, etc., to which the agent replied in the negative, and "demanded that they should go with him to their new home, and that they should, without delay, give their final answer whether they would go peaceably or by force. The Indians refused to give answer at this time, and the council closed without definite results, and the Indians dispersed with a sullen look and determined expression" — p. 493.

#### REMOVAL BY FORCE.

What would a civilized community have done under similar circumstances? They would certainly not have shown any more forbearance, or have manifested any more ready compliance with the plan of wholesale confiscation and robbery. After a careful examination of the testimony, excluding entirely the evidence of the Indians themselves, the only conclusion we can reach is that the Poncas did not give their consent in a way that would commend itself to the people of this country; but, on the contrary, it appears that the removal was accomplished by intimidation and by force of arms. But the Indians themselves positively deny that they gave any consent, and tell a horrible story of cruelty, fraud and deceit practiced upon them, which, if true, should call

forth the protest and indignation of a Christian people, and should demand punishment for the authors of these outrages. Their testimony bears the imprint of truthfulness, and, as yet, has not been successfully impeached.

#### RESULTS OF REMOVAL

It is proper now to narrate the results of the removal. To quote from the Report of the Secretary for 1877, p. 7: "But the reluctance with which they had left their old homes, the strange aspect of a new country, an unusually large number of cases of disease and death among them, and the fact that they were greatly annoyed by white adventurers hovering around the reservation, who stole many of their cattle and ponies, and smuggled whiskey into their encampments, engendered among them a spirit of discontent which threatened to become unmanageable."

The agent, p. 496, same Report, says: "I am of the opinion that the removal of the Poncas from the northern climate of Dakota to the southern climate of the Indian Territory, at the season of the year it was done, will prove a mistake, and that a great mortality will surely follow among the people when they shall have been here for a time and become poisoned with the malaria of the climate. Already the effects of the climate may be seen upon them, in the *ennui* which seems to have settled upon each, and in the large number now sick." The necessity for such haste in their removal, when sickness was foreseen, does not appear. To proceed: "It is a matter of astonishment to me that the Government should have ordered the removal of the Ponca Indians from Dakota to the Indian Territory without having first made some provision for their settlement and comfort. As the case now is, no appropriation has been made by Congress, except of a sum little more than sufficient to remove them; no houses have been built for their use; and the result is, that these people have been placed on an uncultivated reservation to live in their tents, as best they may, and await further legislative action."

## ATTACKED BY DISEASE.

The Report of the Agent for 1878, p. 561, states: "The season thus far since our arrival here has been a very sickly one. The Poncas have suffered severely from chills and fevers and intermittent fevers. Coming from a northern latitude, where such diseases were unknown, with their systems unacclimated, the malaria has been peculiarly fatal to them, and many deaths have resulted. Their sufferings have greatly discouraged and made them dissatisfied with this location, and they express a strong desire to go back to their old reservation in Dakota. At present there is a restless, discontented feeling pervading the whole tribe. They seem to have lost faith in the promises of the Government, and often say that the Great Father has forgotten them; by the time he again remembers them none will be left to receive what he has promised them."

It would be difficult to pen a more pathetic or touching statement. And yet, these are the human beings whom we have been pleased to designate as the *wards* of the Government, as *children* whom we place in nurseries till they shall be fitted to become citizens. Is it possible in this civilized and so-called Christian community, and in this age of refinement and culture, such outrages and atrocities can be passed upon so lightly? A sad blunder indeed for the Government to make—a fatal result for the poor Indians! The question arises, Who is responsible for this great crime? Surely, some one is. The nation has shamelessly violated its solemn promises. The lives of more than two hundred Poncas have been needlessly sacrificed.

## CHARACTER OF PONCAS.

Before leaving the subject of the Poncas, we will consider their character and their present titles to their former homes.

The Secretary states, Report for 1878, p. 8: "They have always been friendly to the whites. It is said, and, as far as I have been able to learn, truthfully, that no Ponca ever killed a white man. The orders of the Government always met with obedient compliance at their hands."

The Agent, in his Report for 1878, p. 561, states : "The Poncas are good Indians. In mental endowment, moral character, physical strength and cleanliness of person, they are superior to any tribe I have ever met."

In regard to the homes they abandoned, the Commissioner, in his Report of 1877, p. 414, states, in reference to the new location of the Spotted Tail agency: "The old Ponca reserve was decided upon, where the agency dwellings, store-houses, one hundred and fifty Indian houses and five hundred acres of cultivated fields, left vacant by the Poncas, offer *special* advantages for present quarters."

This not only shows the industrious habits of the Poncas, but the desirability of their possessions. Consider, they were driven from these homes to an uncultivated reserve, where death and sickness reigned supreme.

#### PRESENT TITLES.

We now come to the present title to these lands they were compelled to abandon.

The Commissioner, in his Report for 1877, p. 419, states: "The adjustment of their land titles is a matter of prime importance." The Agent, in his Report, p. 497, states: "Among the first and most important things to be done, in my judgment, in order to make the removal of the Poncas a success, is for the Government to settle the title of their reservation in them, and to settle with them for their old reservation and other property which they left in Dakota. As the matter *now stands*, the title to the old Ponca reservation in Dakota *still remains* in the Poncas, they having signed no papers relinquishing their title, nor having violated any of the provisions of the treaty by which it was ceded to them by the Government." In view of these facts we submit our

#### CONCLUSIONS.

1. The Poncas were unlawfully removed.
2. The result of such removal has been most disastrous to them as a people.

3. The title to their land in Dakota is a valid one, and should be so recognized by the Department, as well as decided by the courts.

4. It is the bounden duty of the Government to restore these Poncas to their homes without delay, and to make the most ample restitution possible.

5. A Committee of Congress should be appointed to investigate the expenditure of money furnished for their removal, and all other facts relating to the case.

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF INDIANS.

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IN considering the subject of the general management of the Indians, it seems desirable at first to present a few facts in regard to their present condition. The scanty and unreliable information hitherto presented to the public at large, warrants the belief that the facts we are about to present will excite *general surprise*. It has been so common to associate the Indian race with feathers, war-paint and the tomahawk or scalping-knife, that it is extremely difficult to picture them as civilized beings, dressed as ourselves, and adopting the customs and habits of civilized life. From our early youth we have been instructed to regard them as cruel, relentless, revengeful, blood-thirsty savages. The Report of the Interior Department of 1878, contains much valuable information:

### IMPORTANT FACTS.

The number of Indians in the United States is estimated at 250,864. Number who wear citizens dress is 127,450, or more than one-half. In this connection it must be borne in mind that the blanket is a much cheaper garment than what we term citizens' dress, and but for this fact, no doubt, the latter would have been more universally adopted. Number of houses occupied, 23,060.

The quantity of stock owned by them is 176,766 horses, 52,867 cattle, 510,674 sheep.

They raised during the year 266,000 bushels wheat, 971,000 bushels corn, 172,000 bushels oats and barley, 315,000 bushels of vegetables, and cut 36,943 tons hay. There are over 6,000 children in attendance at school, and a much larger number would attend if the Government would make proper provision.

The impediments to the progress of the Indians in education, morality, Christianity and self-support are stated in same Report, p. 675, to be: "Failure of Government to fulfill its promises in regard to land, frequent removals, want of facilities, need of law, unsettled state of Indian question, lack of funds, want of good land, fear of removal," etc.

In reply to question to what is *illiteracy* due, thirty-three tribes respond, "lack of facilities," six tribes to "aversion," and nine tribes to "both." The answer to inquiry whether Indian children differ from white or black, of similar social status, in aptitude, is emphatically, "No."

#### MORAL CONDITION.

The tables of Report show that the *moral* condition of the Indians compares *favorably* with that of the neighboring illiterate whites. Fifteen tribes compare favorably, twelve are equally good, thirteen superior, three inferior. The balance of the account is in favor of the Indian.

#### TEMPERANCE.

The Report also states, p. 675, that *intemperance* is *rare*; only *one* tribe reports it as prevalent. Eighteen tribes report *no* intemperance whatever; ten tribes report not to any extent; and eleven make no report, which may be assumed as favorable.

In spite of this, in many respects, favorable condition of the race, we claim that the present system has failed to secure adequate results, and it is not safe to rely upon it without a radical change in the future.

#### REASONS OF FAILURE.

*First.* Because it depends upon the annual and prompt action of Congress for necessary appropriations; and when this fails—as it frequently has failed—it causes great distress and suffering among the Indian tribes.

*Second.* It places the Indians upon reservations, in many instances, totally unfit for them, where it is impossible for them to secure subsistence and where the climate is unsuited to their natures, and starvation and death result. It is a system of refined cruelty.

*Third.* It creates the office of Commissioner; agents for the tribes are also appointed, clothed with despotic power over the lives and fortunes of the people committed to their charge, so that upon the honesty and integrity of these officials depend, in a great measure, the welfare of a race.

*Fourth.* It creates the office of trader, and compels the Indians to buy and sell only through him, thus tending to impoverish the Indian, to discourage honest labor, to create a feeling of animosity against the whites, and also to corrupt and demoralize the Indian service itself.

*Fifth.* It depends upon the favorable designs and fair treatment of settlers, inasmuch as it puts the Indian beyond the protection of law.

*Sixth.* It deprives the Indians of proper incentives to exertion, by making them dependent upon the public bounty — thus forcing them to become paupers, and keeping them in that condition. This last objection applies to only a portion of the race.

*Seventh.* It is contrary to the genius of our civil institutions, the spirit of the age, and the plain teachings of Christianity, for it gives to one man at Washington absolute power over the lives and property of more than 250,000 human beings.

To sustain these positions we shall quote largely from the Reports of the agents. They afford startling and convincing proof of the grossest mismanagement of the authorities at Washington. Indians are forced to live upon reservations where it is impossible for them to sustain themselves, and not allowed to leave them, and, in many cases, suffer extremely from want of food, and not infrequently starved to death in the most systematic manner. No provision whatever has been made in some tribes for the education of the children, though the parents are anxious for it. Many tribes are expected to



subsist by agriculture, and in some cases no implements have been furnished them, though repeated calls have been made.

#### SOLUTION OF INDIAN QUESTION.

After a careful review of the subject, the solution of the question does not appear to be as difficult as we have been led to suppose. The two ever-present evils have been, **ABSENCE OF PROTECTION BY LAW, AND INSECURITY OF TITLES TO LANDS.** That the ultimate aim and object of all legislation should be to fit the Indian for citizenship, no one will question. Many tribes now desire this privilege and are eminently qualified for it. That the Indians should be granted valid titles to their lands, and that as long as this present insecurity exists the progress of the race will be seriously retarded, if not absolutely stopped, is a self-evident proposition. We have stated, upon the authority of the Government officials, that already they compare favorably with the neighboring illiterate whites who can claim the privileges of citizenship. We believe the declaration of President Julius H. Seelye, of Amherst College: "**THERE CAN BE NO SOLUTION OF THE INDIAN PROBLEM UNTIL WE TREAT THE INDIAN NOT ONLY AS A FELLOW-MAN, BUT AS A FELLOW-CITIZEN, WHOSE RIGHTS TO CITIZENSHIP OUGHT TO BE ASSURED TO HIM BY THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.**"

#### FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT READS:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

#### INDIAN CITIZENSHIP.

But the ground previously taken by those desirous of excluding the Indian from the high privileges to which he is entitled is, that he is not a person. In this enlightened age it cannot be possible that such a position as this can be main-

tained; and yet Judge Dundy, by his decision affirming that the Indian *is* a person, defeated the inhuman purpose of the Government to return a handful of poor, innocent, helpless, emaciated Indians to their reservation to die by disease.

#### SUPREME COURT.

We regard it as of the utmost importance that the questions involved in this decision be settled by the Supreme Court of the land, and in the most expeditious manner possible. The well-being of 250,000 people depends upon the verdict. In the name of justice and humanity; for the sake of an oppressed and outraged people, many of whom are striving earnestly, and all of whom should be allowed, to attain to the higher civilization of the white race, in the name of the Christian religion by whose precepts we profess to be governed, and in the name of human freedom and human rights, on which we boldly take our stand when we invite the suffering and oppressed of every nation to our shores, do we *demand* that the rights of those especially entitled to our favor and protection, the *natives of our soil*, be firmly and justly established. The responsibility rests upon us as a people. We are absorbed with other interests, important, it is true, to our welfare and progress as a nation, but there is no question to-day more important for us to settle than those relating to the native tribes of our land. It is a duty we owe to ourselves, to them, and to God.

If we, as a people, regard the teachings of history, we shall not allow ourselves to be so puffed up with pride and vainglory on account of our rapid progress and present prosperity, that we shall turn a deaf ear to the cries for deliverance that now reach us from the helpless and oppressed.

It is with great satisfaction that we are able to state that the testimony shows that there has been a great improvement in the character of the Indian service. In some directions the Department has manifested a laudable desire to secure justice for the Indians and to improve their condition.

Under the administration of General Grant a great reform took place in the appointment of agents. The nomination was placed in the hands of the various religious bodies, and under this system a better class of agents was secured. We trust it will be continued. There are a few subjects in connection with the history of our dealings with the Indians that should not be omitted in this Report.

#### GENERAL GRANT,

In his first Message to Congress, referring to the Indian cause, said that "a system which looks to the extinction of a race, is too horrible for a nation to adopt without entailing upon itself the wrath of all Christendom." And yet, our past dealings with them have been in that direction. It is desirable to refer briefly to our treaties with the Indians, — the wars, with their causes and results, — and the rights of the Indians to their lands.

#### TREATIES WITH INDIANS.

Fortunately, we can make no more treaties with Indians. It is a disagreeable thing to do to arraign our Government and our Country of crime; but upon the pages of history are written, with a pen of iron, the injustice, the fraud, the deceit, the barbarity, inflicted by us upon a weak and helpless race. We have made three hundred and eighty treaties with the Indians, the sole object of each being to deprive the Indians of more land, and which the previous treaty had guaranteed to them. The history of the shameless, causeless violation of these treaties is a lasting disgrace to the nation. And still the honor of the nation is disregarded, so far as the violation of treaty is concerned. The Indian has always lost, and the white man always won. It is time that this flagrant violation of the solemn promises of the Government was stopped, and all existing treaties faithfully performed.

We understand this to be the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, and the attention of Congress should be specially directed to this subject.

## INDIAN WARS.

As the Indian wars have been the result of violation of treaties, the discussion of one subject naturally and inevitably leads to the other. The question arises, Why do we have such constant wars with the Indians? Are we to blame, or is it the fault of the Indians? A special committee, authorized by Congress and appointed by the President, investigated this subject and reported in 1868. This Report is signed by *W. T. Sherman*, now *General of the Army*, by Major-Generals Harvey, Terry and Auger, and four civilians. Such a report should be sufficient to decide the matter beyond controversy. We quote from this Report:—

“Here, Civilization made its contract, and guaranteed the rights of the weaker party. It did *not stand* by the guaranty. The treaty was *broken*, but *not* by the savage. If the savage resists, Civilization, with the ten commandments in one hand and the sword in the other, demands his immediate extermination.”

“Among civilized men war usually springs from a sense of injustice. The best possible way, then, to avoid war, is to do no act of injustice.”

“When we learn that the same rule holds good with Indians, the chief difficulty is removed. But it is said our wars with them have been almost constant. Have we been uniformly unjust? We answer, unhesitatingly, YES. Naturally, the Indian has many noble qualities. He is the very embodiment of courage. If he is cruel and revengeful, it is because he is outlawed, and his companion is the wild beast. Let civilized man be his companion, and the association warms into life virtues of the rarest worth.” What a commentary is this upon our administration of justice! This testimony is confirmed by a large number of army officers as well as civilians who have had large experience in dealing with Indians.

## REPORT OF GENERAL CROOK.

GENERAL CROOK states, in his Report of this year: “During the twenty-seven years of my experience with

the Indian question, I have never known a band of Indians to make peace with our Government and then break it, or leave their reservation without some ground of complaint; but until their complaints are examined and adjusted they will constantly give annoyance and trouble." We have embodied these extracts into this Report, not only because they confirm to the fullest extent our own views, but because it is important the PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES should know what the military authorities of the nation *declare* to be the facts. It is asserted we have been "uniformly unjust;" that if the Indian is cruel, it is because we have made him so; that, during an experience of twenty-seven years, "he has never broken a peace." It is because this is a Government of the people, and because the people would never tolerate such injustice and abuses if the facts were properly presented to them, that we have faith in the future.

#### OPINION OF SECRETARY STANTON.

Secretary Stanton once said to a friend when Bishop Whipple visited Washington: "What does the Bishop want? If he has come here to tell us that this Government is guilty of gross crimes in its dealings with the Indians, tell him that we all know that this is true. Tell him that the United States Government never redresses any wrong until the people demand it; and when he can reach the heart of the people, these wrongs will end." What a rebuke is this to those who profess to represent the people! It is, nevertheless, true. The people must be awakened to a sense of the crimes perpetrated in their name. Information must *precede* action. If the people could, by direct vote, decide this question relating to the rights of the Indian, the result would not be doubtful. The instruments upon which we must rely are public meetings, such as have already been held under the charge of Mr. T. H. Tibbles, in Boston, New York, Brooklyn, and elsewhere, and which have never failed to secure the unequivocal expression of approval; the public press, which has, with great unanimity, supported

the movement in behalf of the Indians; and the action of committees, well organized, so as to command the confidence of the people, and to assist in disseminating information. These agencies are now all at work, and the increased interest upon this subject at Washington indicates that the voice of the people is commanding attention. This great Government can well afford to be just. Were the great masses of the people of the land in full possession of all the facts relating to the removal of the Poncas, the war with the Sioux, the war with the Nez Percés and their removal, the war with the Cheyennes and their massacre, a cry of indignation would resound throughout the land. Treachery, murder and rapine, have, in too many instances, characterized our dealings.

#### REPORT OF SIOUX COMMISSION.

The Sioux Commission made a report at Washington, in 1876, that should have awakened Congress to a sense of its duty, and the people to a sense of their guilt. We will insert a few closing words of that report: "A great crisis has arisen in Indian affairs. The wrongs of the Indians are admitted by all. Thousands of the best men in the land feel keenly the Nation's shame. They look to Congress for redress. Unless immediate and appropriate legislation is made for the protection and government of the Indians, they must perish, and our country bear forever the disgrace, and suffer the retribution, of its wrong-doing. Our children's children will tell the sad story in hushed tones, and wonder how their fathers dared so trample on justice and trifle with God." And thus we are writing history for posterity. Of the Cheyennes, General Crook writes: "Among these Cheyenne Indians were some of the bravest and most efficient of the auxiliaries who had acted under General Mackenzie and myself in the campaign against the hostile Sioux, and I still preserve a grateful remembrance of their distinguished services, which the Government seems to have forgotten." The details of this massacre, and of the causes that led to it, are too *horrible*

to narrate, and constitute one of the darkest chapters of our history. Men, women and children, driven to desperation by cruelty and starvation, were plunged into one common ruin.

In the Report of Lieut. W. P. Clark, of this year, we find the following account relating to the capture of Little Wolf's band of Cheyennes:—

“Little Wolf said, in reply: ‘Since I left you at Red Cloud we have been south, and have suffered a great deal down there. Many have died of diseases which we have no name for. Our hearts looked and longed for this country where we were born. There are only a few of us left, and we only wanted a little ground where we could live. We left our lodges standing, and ran away in the night. The troops followed us. I rode out and told the troops we did not want to fight; we only wanted to go north, and if they would let us alone we would kill no one. The only reply we got was a volley. After that we had to fight our way, but we killed none who did not fire at us first. My brother, Dull Knife, took one-half of the band and surrendered near Camp Robinson. He thought you were still there and would look out for him: They gave up their guns, and then the whites killed them all.’”

A black record of treachery and murder for which the Indian Department is responsible to the people. The authors of it should be brought to justice.

In regard to our wars, General Sherman has said, that deeds have been committed by our soldiers, wearing the uniform of our country and fighting under our flag, that would have disgraced any tribe in Africa. The encroachment by the whites upon the lands occupied by the Indians has been one great source of trouble and cause of war. It is argued that the lands of the Indians are valuable, and must be occupied by white settlers. So there are large tracts of valuable lands held by gigantic railway corporations and by individuals, for purposes of speculation, but no one proposes to occupy *these* lands because they are valuable and should be utilized. And why not? Because the rights of the owners are protected by law; because they hold titles to their lands,

and can defend those titles in court. This is precisely what we claim the Indian should possess. Give him valid title to the land that belongs to him, give him the protection of law, and we shall hear no more of encroachments and troubles, and war will cease. The allotments of land that it is now proposed to issue to the Indians are of no more value than the paper upon which they are written — as no title is conveyed. It is another farce in another direction, and no one knows it better than the Secretary. Congress must, by special act, confirm these titles, and it should be done without delay.

#### PLOTS TO ROB THE INDIANS.

Already, nefarious schemes are on foot to rob the civilized tribes in the Indian Territory of their lands. Capitalists are already on the field, and endeavoring to secure the favorable action of Congress, to enable them to complete the robbery and again plunge the nation into a disgraceful and cruel war. It is believed the Indian Bureau is aware of this danger, and will use all its influence to prevent this new outrage. A bill is also before Congress to remove the Santees from Nebraska. This is a peaceful, industrious, civilized and Christian tribe, and the fact that such a measure has been proposed, should hasten the legislation necessary to secure the Indian tribes in the peaceful possession of their homes and reservations, by granting them absolute titles. It should be done without delay, and the people should demand it.

The policy of holding a whole tribe responsible for the acts of one individual, or even of a few members, is too unjust and abominable to admit of any argument. We might, with equal reason, hold a town or city responsible for acts committed by one of its citizens. It is too monstrous to be tolerated in this free and enlightened land.

The Reports of the agents correct many false impressions in regard to the Indians. They show that the Indian is ready and willing to work when the same incentive is placed before him that the white man enjoys; that the Indians are desirous their children should be educated, but that the failure is on



the part of the Government; that the Indians, as a race, are as worthy of the privileges of citizenship as the whites surrounding them; that the great evil to which they are subjected is the absence of protection by law; that fear of removal and insecurity of their lands, act as a hindrance to their advancement; that they desire to remain at peace, and are making rapid progress in the arts of civilized life and in embracing the Christian faith.

It is claimed that the Indian Department has a policy, and it defines it. Nothing could be more humane, certainly, than this theoretical plan. But what are the fruits of it? Removal of tribes, unlawfully; permitted encroachments of settlers upon the lands belonging to the Indians; violation of solemn treaties; non-payment of funds belonging to the Indians; neglect in providing schools, as promised; starving the Indians; holding whole tribes responsible for the crimes of a few; threatening them with war, and starving innocent women and children, if the guilty persons will not give themselves up to be hung; in fact, all the *abominable, atrocious* and *revolting* crimes that a stronger power can perpetrate upon a weaker one.

The language is strong, but the facts justify it. Away with a policy that deals only in promises! Substitute law, citizenship, and the Indian Bureau may cease to promulgate its dogmas.

Extracts from these Reports we submit as an appendix, and we ask for them a patient reading and careful consideration. The subject is too important, and the results of our action, as a people, too far-reaching, to admit of a *hasty* reviewal.

#### SYMPATHY FOR SETTLERS.

In the careful consideration of the Indian question, we have become convinced that the settlers upon our borders, the pioneers of the West, have suffered, as well as the Indian race, under the unjust and mistaken policy of the Government. We feel the deepest sympathy for those who have

been sacrificed in the bloody strife between the races. It is in their behalf that we urge the inauguration of such a policy as will lead to an improvement upon the present condition of affairs. Where there is constant injustice practiced, with no clearly-defined policy of the Government, the innocent suffer. There is but little encouragement for the future unless the Government of the United States recognizes that the Indians are human beings, capable of enlightenment, extends to them just rights, and holds them to a strict accountability. The large number of Indians already peaceful citizens proves the possibilities of the future for all. We must not be misunderstood: the policy we recommend for the Indians will prove a protection for the white settlers on the borders.

In closing, we propose the following recommendations, earnestly asking the people of the land, as well as the representatives of the people in Congress, to give them such attention and approval as the facts may justify and reason and humanity demand. We ask no more.

#### FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the solemn treaties and pledges of the Government to the Indians be in all cases honestly and promptly fulfilled.
2. That the Indian be recognized not only as a *person*, but as a *fellow-citizen*, entitled to the protection of law, and also made amenable to it; and that he enjoy all the privileges accorded to all other persons and citizens.
3. That the present reservations now granted to the Indians, whether by treaty, executive order, or otherwise, be ceded to them by absolute title, inalienable for twenty-five years, except upon a vote of three-fourths of the male adults of the tribe, subject to the consent of the Government. The Canadian Indians hold their titles in this way under the British law.

4. That individual Indians should have the same privilege in selecting allotments that other persons enjoy, and that titles should be granted to them upon the same conditions, with this exception only, that these lands shall be inalienable for twenty-five years.

It is our confident belief that these measures *alone* will solve the so-called Indian problem; for it is easily solved if we deal with it in a spirit of justice, humanity and truth.

THOMAS TALBOT,  
F. O. PRINCE,  
RUFUS ELLIS,  
JOHN W. CANDLER,  
WILLIAM H. LINCOLN,  
*Committee.*

## APPENDIX.

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### VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE AGENTS OF THE DIFFERENT TRIBES.

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## ALL SHOULD READ THIS.

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### Necessity of Protection of Law.

A code of laws for Indian reservations, and appliances for dispensing justice, neither of which at present have any existence.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1877.

There is no act of Congress which deals with the punishment of crimes against person or property (within the meaning of the common law as distinguished from statutory crimes against the United States) committed by or against Indians within the boundaries of an Indian reservation.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1877.

Wish well to the Indians as we may, and do for them what we will, the efforts of civil agents, teachers and missionaries are like the struggles of drowning men weighted with lead, as long as by the absence of law Indian society is left without a base.

BISHOP HARE'S REPORT, 1877.

They are not legal tenants; they cannot make legal contracts, or collect their wages by a suit at law.

J. E. COLBURN, Agent, San Bernardino, 1877.

I believe it to be of the utmost importance that Congress at once extend over Indians the jurisdiction of United States courts. Indians should be given to understand that they cannot commit crime and go unpunished; and, on the other hand, that they will be effectually protected by the Government in life, liberty and property.

H. F. LIVINGSTON, Agent, Dakota, 1877.

Make every Indian amenable to law, and punish him the same as a white man for murder, theft, polygamy, bigamy, and all other crimes.

J. M. LEE, Spotted Tail, Nebraska, 1877.

If a white man sees fit, in his depravity, to infringe upon the rights of an Indian, or to violate his pledge or contract with him, he has no redress whatever, as there is no tribunal to which he can appeal for justice. And so, also, on the other hand, an Indian may trespass on the granted rights and privileges of a white man by a failure to meet his contract, by public slander, by forcible possession of his property, and in a variety of other respects, and there is no court to which he can appeal for satisfaction.

S. W. MARSTON, Agent Muskogee, Ind. Ter., 1877.

In connection with this matter I would again respectfully call attention to the fact of the small punishment prescribed by law for stealing from an Indian, compared to that for stealing from the Government or white man — one year being the extent of the law for stealing from an Indian, even though the number stolen may amount to a herd of fifty head. This law should be changed, increasing the time to three or five years' confinement.

J. M. HAWORTH, Agent Kiowa and Comanches, 1877.

Some legislation is necessary to protect the Indians in their rights of property, and the reclamation of property stolen from them and conveyed beyond the reserve.

JACOB VORE, Agent Omahas, 1877.

As the authority of chiefs in the government of a tribe is practically annulled as the tribe advances in civilization, it is patent that some provision of law should be made to fill this deficiency, and protect Indians in their individual rights in regard to person and property. The condition in which Indians are placed would certainly be suicidal if introduced into a community of whites.

M. B. KENT, Agent Sac and Fox, Nebraska, 1877.

I would again urge the establishment of some competent legal authority, to take cognizance of, and punish the perpetration of, crime on the reservation. The Indian needs to be made amenable to law like other people. White people without law would not be such quiet people as these Indians are. I believe the best and most influential Indians would gladly welcome and support a proper legal authority.

R. M. PRATT, Agent, Red Lake, Minn., 1877.

As a general proposition, Indians do not receive, at least from the local officials and State courts, the protection contemplated by the laws and accorded to the whites.

REPORT OF CIVIL AND MILITARY COMMISSION  
TO NEZ PERCES INDIANS, Dec., 1876.

By far the greatest need of this agency is civil law. Give us civil law, and power to execute it.

J. L. MAHAN, Red Cliff Reserve, Wis., 1877.

As there is no law by which an Indian may acquire all of the rights and privileges of a citizen of the United States, notwithstanding he may be possessed of the highest learning and Christianity (See Report Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1873, p. 304), I respectfully suggest the enactment of an Indian citizenship law.

R. H. MILROY, Agent, Washington Territory, 1877.

Indians should have laws to govern them as well as any other class of persons, and would readily submit to any well-digested, simple code of laws that should be enacted.

EDWIN EELLS, S'Kokomish Agency, W. T., 1877.

In closing this Report I again respectfully take occasion to renew the recommendation made in my Annual Report for 1876, for extending the criminal laws of the United States over the Indians under my charge, for the reasons therein stated.

JOHN A. SIMMS, Colville Agency, W. T., 1877.

Joseph now says that the greatest want of the Indians is a system of law, by which controversies between Indians, and between Indians and white men, can be settled without appealing to physical force. He says that the want of law is a great source of disorder among Indians. They understand the operation of laws, and if there were any statutes the Indians would be perfectly content to place themselves in the hands of a proper tribunal, and would not take the righting of their wrongs into their own hands, or retaliate, as they now do, without the law. In dealing with such people it is the duty, and, I think, it will be the pleasure, of the Department to see that the fostering hand of the Government is extended toward them, and that it gives them not only lands on which to live and implements of agriculture, but also wholesome laws for their government.

REPORT OF INDIAN COMMISSIONER, 1878.

They cannot sue or be sued under the Judiciary Act of 1789, and only get into the Federal courts as civil litigants in occasional instances by favor of special laws.

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, 1878, p. 488.

Law is the safeguard, and education the companion, of civilization; both should be intelligently provided for in the management of Indian affairs.

JAMES IRWIN, Red Cloud Agency, Dakota, 1878.

Such facts as these are cogent arguments in favor of establishing United States courts in the Territory, for the more efficient promotion of peace and safety to the people who reside here.

LEVI WOODARD, Sac and Fox Agency, Ind. Ter., 1878.

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### Peaceable Disposition of Indians.

During the past year no white person has been either killed or injured by Indians, to my knowledge; while I have learned of four cases where Indians have been assaulted and injured by white persons, and the Indian and his friends have not retaliated by doing personal violence.

E. H. DANFORTH, Agent Utes, 1877.

The Indians have behaved *well* in the matter, and in this respect have proved themselves to be far superior to those unscrupulous persons who have endeavored to dispossess the Indian of his land, and have knowingly and willfully set at naught the rights of others.

W. D. WHEELER, Agent Utes, 1877.

The Utes are as peaceable and as well disposed toward the whites as any Indians in the country, and in the event of any trouble growing out of this Uncapahgre Park affair, the white man will have to bear the disgrace of giving rise to it.

W. D. WHEELER, Agent Utes, 1877.

Indians are a people who have but few quarrels among themselves, being much more orderly and peaceable than the same number of whites. Where could eleven hundred white men be found who would live together without any restraint of civil law, as the Indians do.

JAMES McLAUGHLIN, Agent Sioux, 1877.

There are no people, of whatever nationality, among our citizens, who are more peaceful and law-abiding than the Indians of this agency.

GEO. W. LEE, Mackinaw, Michigan, 1877.

From what I saw of the condition of affairs, I believe that some of the white men were more anxious for an Indian war than the Indians themselves.

LEVI A. GHEEN, Agent Shoshones, Nev., 1877.

They firmly believe that the land is theirs, and all persons occupying it are subject to my control. They do not object to the settlers, but claim the right of way through the farms. As fences are the *exception* in this country, not the rule, there is nothing to prevent them passing through the fields, which has several times led to complaints I am powerless to remedy.

F. C. GODFREY, Agent Apaches, New Mexico, 1877.

They are entirely self-supporting, never having cost the Government a single dollar for their maintenance. They are, and have always been, friendly to the whites, and in the past have manifested their friendship in many ways, and it is their boast that they have never killed a white man.

J. H. STOUT, Pima Agency, Arizona, 1873.



The Indians on ~~this~~ reservation are peaceable and well-disposed. I regret to say that they have not received much encouragement to remain "good Indians."

RICHARD C. PARKER, Hoopa Valley Agency, Cal., 1878.

The Yankton band of the Sioux number now on the reservation, 2,112. They are peacefully inclined, and have been uniformly friendly to the Government and its citizens, even to taking up arms in its defense against their own kindred.

J. W. DOUGLAS, Yankton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

These Indians are peaceable and friendly. I must commend them for their patience in waiting the arrival of supplies when really suffering from hunger. I believe them more easily dealt with than as many whites would be under the same conditions.

E. H. ALDEN, Fort Berthold, Dakota, 1878.

These Ute Indians are peaceable; respectors of the right of property, and, with few exceptions, amiable and prepossessing in appearance. There are no quarrelsome outbreaks; no robberies; and, perhaps, not half a dozen who pilfer, and these are well known.

N. C. MEEKER, Agent Utes, Col., 1878.

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## Necessity of Titles to Lands.

The endowment of the Indians with lands divided into farms, of convenient size, the title to which shall be vested in individuals, and inalienable for twenty years. Recommendation.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1877.

The land-grabbers are after them, and an agent with seven-leagued boots could scarcely travel from village to village so fast as those Americans who are seeking a few acres of ground with a spring upon it, or moist lands where wheat and potatoes grow without irrigation, that may be pre-empted or taken up under the

desert-land act. That such lands have been held by Indians and cultivated by Indians, counts for no more than if they had been only homes for grasshoppers and cayotes. This seems to me a great and unpardonable vice in the law, that it treats as unoccupied, and subject to pre-emption, lands which have been in fact occupied and cultivated precisely as white men occupy and cultivate, and that, too, for more than one generation of living men.

J. E. COLBURN, Agent, San Bernardino, Cal., 1877.

The Indians who had nobly struck out for a higher plane by asking allotments of land in severalty, and had, in many instances, made (to them) valuable improvements, seemed depressed and worn out with long waiting for the "kingdom coming," or that happy day when Indians would be acknowledged as equal citizens, with the rest of human kind.

J. L. MAHAN, Red Cliff Reserve, Wis., 1877.

Another subject upon which legislation is needed is, the granting of titles to their lands to those disposed to cultivate and improve them. As has been repeatedly urged heretofore, this causes them much uneasiness. Could they be sure of their homes, they would, of course, work with much more interest than with the uncertainties under which they now operate.

EDWIN EELLS, S'Kokomish Agency, W. T., 1877.

Over thirty have each taken one of these lots. About half of them have built houses on their lots, and others are preparing to build on and improve their lots; and all want deeds, or "papers," for their lots, which I have promised them.

R. H. MILROY, Agent, Washington Territory, 1877.

Most of the Indians of this agency, especially those of the Puyallup reservation, took claims soon after the survey and built dwellings, made "permanent homes" on and improved their claims, and have procured their subsistence by the cultivation of their farms, like white men. Many complied with the requirements of making "permanent homes" and improvements four years ago, and have been looking to me for the fulfillment of my promise to get the "papers" for their claims. Some few of them have lost

faith, and abandoned their claims; but the mass of them have great faith in my promise to them, and are still working away on their claims, believing that "Washington" will not let them lose their homes and labor.

R. H. MILROY, Agent, Washington Territory, 1877.

The reception of these titles would do more to stimulate and encourage the Indians of this agency in improving their farms, and in habits of industry and civilization, than anything else that could be done.

R. H. MILROY, Agent, Washington Territory, 1877.

Soon after coming into this Territory, as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, I discovered that the bane of our Indian system, and the prime cause of its failure, was the fact of communing tribes upon reservations, like herds of cattle in fenced pastures, without any individual property in the soil.

R. H. MILROY, Agent, Washington Territory, 1877.

The Indians are quiet and orderly. Many of them being without teams, tools or subsistence, have been granted leave of absence to work for farmers, lumbermen, etc., off the reservation. They continue to complain of the failure of Government to allot their lands to them in severalty. Hearing, as they constantly do, that Government is soon to drive them from the land they now occupy, in order to make room for the whites who want homes, they sometimes get discouraged, and conclude it is useless to improve what they are so soon to vacate. Those, however, who have embraced Christianity, continue their improvements with a determination, in case of a discontinuance of the agency, to dissolve their tribal relations, and, becoming citizens of the United States, obtain titles to their lands under the protection of our laws.

WM. BAGLEY, Siletz Agency, Oregon, 1877.

The Indians of this agency are kept in a state of constant uneasiness and insecurity, by reports of whites with whom they come in contact, to the effect that they are soon to be removed from their present homes, and that the deeds to their lands are valueless, and may at any time be annulled or canceled. Now, it

is immaterial whether there is any truth in these reports or not; the effect upon the minds of the Indians is just the same, so long as they have no deed in fee-simple, or no assurance from the Government that they will be permanently protected in the possession of their lands; and it will be impossible to induce them to permanently improve their farms and become self-supporting, until they have some land to improve, as they are no more anxious than white persons to work for years and improve lands for the benefit of others.

P. B. SINOTT, Agent, Oregon, 1877.

As I have stated in former Reports, this pre-emption right is a source of great uneasiness to the Indians of Cattaraugus and Alleghany reservations, resting as a cloud upon the title of their lands. It stifles industry by withholding the best incentive to it, growing out of the natural desire to acquire property, and the attachments of home and family.

D. SHERMAN, Agent, Cattaraugus, 1877.

For several years past the citizens of Oregon have made persistent effort to have these lands opened to settlement, and several bills to that effect have been introduced in Congress. This desire, which gains strength yearly, is well known to the Indians, and begets a feeling of restlessness and uncertainty decidedly unfavorable to their progress in civilization.

REPORT OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS, 1878.

Many of the Indians now outside of this reserve are living on lands adapted to farming purposes. As long as they are allowed to remain in possession of these, they can continue to make their own living; but, as has already been reported to the Department, they are in danger of losing them, for as these lands become valuable by cultivation, they are courted by the white man.

J. H. STOUT. Pima Agency, Arizona, 1878.

The occupants of reservations created by executive order, or by direction of the Secretary, are mere tenants at will, and possess no permanent right to the lands upon which they are temporarily permitted to remain.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, 1878, p. 486.

Let the Indian be assured that he can have a homestead of his own, and thus enjoy for himself and his children the fruits of his labor undisturbed, and he will soon demonstrate how long and well he can labor for himself, and how soon become self-supporting.

J. W. DOUGLAS, Yankton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

I earnestly recommend that land be allotted to these Indians in severalty, patents being issued by the Government, and possession made inalienable for twenty or twenty-five years. This is what they now desire.

J. W. DOUGLAS, Yankton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

When an Indian settles on a parcel of land on his reservation and fulfills certain requirements, he should have a genuine title in his land conferred upon him and his heirs, the same as in the homestead act.

JAMES IRWIN, Red Cloud Agency, Dakota, 1878.

The question of land-title was spoken of twelve years ago for the Santees, and has been agitated more or less ever since, and bill after bill has been presented to the various committees of Congress, praying that a law be passed giving them, with others, the right to take one hundred and sixty acres of land as a home for themselves, as white men do; and just as often as it has been asked, that often it has failed. Here is a failure in the civilizing policy, which must be overcome in order to make it a success. If the Indian Department succeed in bringing the Indian to that point where he is willing to abandon his roving habits and live like a white man, then Congress must perform its part in giving homes of their own which cannot be taken from them.

ISAIAH LIGHTNER, Santee Agency, Neb., 1878.

They were long ago driven from the best places, and their last and present places of resort are now threatened, and, it is to be feared, cannot be preserved to them, except in a few instances.

J. E. COLBURN, Agent, San Bernardino, 1877.

I cannot part with these Indians without urging upon you to secure a modification, by Congress, of that provision of their treaty

which makes the plowing, fencing, residence upon for five years, and the cultivation of fifty acres of land, a condition of receiving a patent for one hundred and sixty acres. After a careful study of the history of the treaty, and having learned something of the character of the white men who were chiefly instrumental in making the treaty,—viz., James R. Brown and Benjamin Thompson,—it is my deliberate judgment that they intended to prevent Indians obtaining patents; and this is the accepted opinion among intelligent Indians, and others cognizant of the facts. If it is right to give title to intelligent white men, after five years' residence, erection of houses, and no stipulated number of acres under cultivation, is it just to establish such a burdensome prerequisite for an Indian, ignorant of industrial arts? Not one in fifty can comply with its provisions with the limited resources at their command.

JOHN G. HAMILTON, Agent, Sisseton, Dakota, 1877.

I am of the opinion that the time has fully arrived when the interests of the Indians of this agency would be best subserved by the allotment of their lands in severalty, with proper restrictions to prevent alienation.

H. W. JONES, Agent Quapau Agency, 1877.

Many practical and progressive Indians have been discouraged and deterred from making improvements, upon which they had determined, through fear that they would not be allowed to enjoy the benefit of them.

M. H. NEWLIN, Agent, Kansas, 1877.

The Winnebagoes have occupied at least six different reservations since their removal west of the Mississippi. These frequent changes, and the necessary abandonment of what improvements they had made on their lands, seemed to discourage them from making that individual effort so essential to advancement.

HOWARD WHITE, Agent, Winnebago, Neb., 1877.

The country is becoming more thickly settled by white people, and the patches of land, in many cases heretofore cultivated by the Indians, have been purchased from the Government by white men, and are now cultivated by them. In other cases the water heretofore used by the Indians for irrigating purposes has been taken

from the streams above the Indian ranches, thus rendering them valueless, as nothing can be raised without irrigation.

LEVI A. GHEEN, Shoshones, Nevada, 1877.

The Jicarilla Apache Indian has no home ; as a people they have no country that they can call their own. No incentive to improvement has ever been placed before them. I have had frequent conversations with their leading men on the subject, and they have always expressed a strong desire to be placed where they could have some hope of permanency. They also express themselves as anxious to learn to farm, and have their children learn to read and write.

S. A. RUSSELL, Agent Utes, New Mexico, 1877.

In connection with the above I may add the remark, that is believed to be of the utmost importance in order to advance the Indians in industrial pursuits, that their homes be secured to them by law, in such manner that they cannot be taken from them.

J. W. GRIEST, Otoe Agency, Neb., 1878.

Recommendations of last year are repeated :—

Enactment of laws protecting Indians in their individual rights with respect to person and property.

JACOB VORE, Nemaha Agency, Neb., 1878.

So self-reliant are they, that could they once feel secure in their homes, and the same assistance in establishing themselves be extended to them that is afforded to the surrounding agencies, their welfare would be greatly promoted, and a permanent peace assured.

JOHN A. SIMMS, Fort Colville, W. T., 1879.

We urge, also, some legislation which shall open the way to giving these Indians, with proper safeguards, actual title in the lands taken by them as they are ready to occupy and improve individual homesteads. The provisions of the Sioux treaty of 1876 authorize the issue of certificates of occupation, to be recorded in a Sioux land-book. But this provision is practically of no value whatever, and fails entirely to meet the want of any Indian

who steps out of the Indian ways into the ranks of civilized men, which is, absolute ownership of the land he lives on.

REPORT SIOUX COMMISSION, Washington, 1878.

Upon this reservation we have made one hundred and sixty allotments of eighty acres to individuals, and many good farms have been opened without very much encouragement from the Department, as the Indians long for their patents, as in the case of Red Cliff and Bad River.

J. L. MAHAN, La Pointe Agency, Wis., 1878.

We do hope that it may not be long till patents are issued, for Indians cannot bear suspense; long waiting is not conducive to good government or active enterprise among Indians.

J. L. MAHAN, La Pointe Agency, 1878.

A *bona fide* title to their lands, cultivated by them as their homesteads, and they themselves citizenized, would at once transform them from being aliens and from the danger of being enemies, into sure friends of our Government.

M. G. MANN, Teacher, Puyallup Reservation, 1878.

Early last fall they had reason to believe that patents would soon be given them, and for a time were greatly elated; but soon after their hopes were again cast down by the news that a different policy had been recommended by the Department. Some at that time abandoned their lands, the improvements upon which were worth hundreds of dollars, and went out on to the public domain and took up new lands, away from their relatives and friends, and commenced anew to hew out homes for themselves, which will not be subject to the changes incident to reservation life; but the greater part of them still hold on to their homes, hoping yet to be recognized and protected in the benefits and enjoyments of them.

EDWIN EELLS, S'Kokomish Agency, W. T., 1878.

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### Will Indians Make Good Citizens?

They hold to property with tenacity, make expenditures carefully, and are economical in the use of the produce of their fields.

M. H. NEWLIN, Agent, Kansas, 1877.



This tribe, like the Oneidas, are already preparing to petition next Congress for a sale of their land and a division of the spoils, asking the right of citizenship.

J. C. BRIDGMAN, Keshena, Wis., 1877.

Most all of the young and middle-aged Indians are now living upon their small farms, allotted to them by deeds given them by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon, some four years ago, and are yearly becoming more contented with their new method of life and reconciled to the pursuit of a quiet farmer, every year indicating a marked improvement in their manner of life.

P. B. SINOTT, Oregon, 1877.

PIMA AND MARICOPA AND PAPAGO INDIANS.—The Indians comprising these tribes, in the Territory of Arizona, number, in the aggregate, over ten thousand. They are a worthy, industrious class of Indians, and self-supporting.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1878.

With ten thousand bushels of wheat as the crop of this year, what they need is, to be led rapidly up to self-support and citizenship. Any other attempted solution of the Indian question must prove "a delusion and a snare."

S. R. RIGGS, Missionary Sisseton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

Here is a little community of less than one hundred families, who, without any care for theory, have struck out, each man for himself, and, taking the pioneer settlers for their pattern, have scattered themselves out over a country, and with their patterns near at hand on every side, have attained unto a fair degree of civilization. It might be well for theorists to study this case a little. There may be something peculiar in the nature of the Indian that requires more example than can well be had where large numbers of heathen are congregated and separated from the civilized world. Or it may be that that independence, without which civilization is naught, can never be attained by the Indian until he is cast out of his old reservation nest, and told to spread his wings and fly, like the rest of the "eagle nation," or fall and die.

J. P. WILLIAMSON, Flandreau Agency, Dakota, 1878.

The Chippewa and Christian Indians, without exception, live in comfortable dwelling-houses, and have good outbuildings, farms and orchards. They all speak the English language, and I think might safely be made citizens of the United States, provided their land should remain inalienable for a period of years.

M. H. NEWLIN, Agency, Kan., 1878.

During the last two or three years the Winnebagoes have frequently discussed the question of their becoming citizens of the United States, and a desire to that end seems to have increased among them to such an extent that I believe a majority are now in favor of taking upon themselves the burthens of citizenship, providing the Government will adopt certain measures which they consider necessary for the care and protection of their property.

HOWARD WHITE, Winnebago Agency, Neb., 1878.

The Pueblo Indians, of New Mexico, number about nine thousand. They live in towns built of stone or adobe, and are widely scattered over the territory. They are an honest, plodding people, and are nearly always entirely independent of Government in respect of material aid. They raise all the products of the country, including fruit, and also give much attention to flocks and herds.

B. M. THOMAS, Pueblo Agency, New Mex., 1878.

We would also point to the very encouraging efforts made in the same direction by the Santees and Sissetons, who have remained on their reservations, and who for ten years have been asking and working to gain individual titles to the lands they there occupy. We also point to the energy and enterprise of the colony from Cheyenne River Agency, located on the east side of Missouri, at Peoria Bottom, which has but recently come out of one of the wildest of the Sioux tribes, but now forms a community of peaceable farmers, who are anxiously waiting for legal titles to the lands there surveyed for them.

We point to these to show the hopefulness of work in this direction, and the pressing need of legislation which shall help all of these people to come on to the platform of civilized men.

REPORT OF SIOUX COMMISSION, Washington, 1878.

A vote taken in this tribe by Indians, who are of Stockbridge or Munsee descent, would show an almost unanimous choice for citizenship; perhaps five or six old men would rather die as they lived — Indians.

J. C. BRIDGMAN, Green Bay Agency, Wis., 1878.

Among the freaks which some of them have taken the past year, has been their effort to become citizens under the naturalization laws, quite a number having taken out their first papers, under the impression that by so doing they would be secured against removal to some other reservation. (However, the idea of becoming citizens is a subject in which they are becoming more and more interested; and the fact is, that those who can read and write, who own land and other property, pay taxes, and live in comfortable homes, as whites do, can have no good reason urged against their being so recognized.

EDWIN EELLS, S'Kokomish Agency, W. T., 1878.

These Indians are now citizens, protected by the laws of the country the same as their white neighbors; and for this protection they willingly pay taxes, so that the agent has little magisterial work to do.

JOHN P. WILLIAMSON, Agent Santees, 1877.

In conclusion, I would say that I am not discouraged yet, but firmly believe that, in time, with proper sacrifice and toil, these Indians may be slowly advanced to the position of good citizens of this Government; and one of the most efficient helps to this end will be an act of Congress making them such, subject to all the laws and privileges of white people.

E. H. ALDEN, Agent, Fort Berthold, Dakota, 1877.

There are about two hundred church organizations among the Indians of this agency, representing the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations of Christians, with an aggregate membership of over ten thousand—the fruits of the faithful labors of white missionaries, supplemented by that of the native preachers.

S. W. MARSTON, Agent Seminoles, 1877.

I believe the time is not far distant when most of them will cheerfully assume the duties of good citizens in their habits and occupations, as the necessary and inevitable result that must ere long come to them is now dawning with portentous evidences that to them are unmistakable.

LEVI WOODARD, Agent Sac and Fox, 1877.

These Indians have adopted the language and customs of the white race; they reside in comfortable dwellings, have finely cultivated farms and orchards, and, by their industry and business capacity, obtain all the necessities, and many of the luxuries, of life. They desire to become citizens of the United States.

M. H. NEWLIN, Agent, Kansas, 1877.

From the manner in which these Indians have conducted themselves since I have been here, I believe the time has arrived for them to be recognized as citizens, so far as having their lands deeded to them upon which they now reside.

ISAIAH LIGHTNER, Agent Santees, Neb., 1877.

There is no possible question but that these people must, before many years, assume duties and responsibilities which they do not now have; for some of them are already capable of becoming useful citizens, and rather than remove from their present home would avail themselves of this privilege, if extended to them.

M. B. KENT, Agent Sac and Fox, Neb., 1877.

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### **Inexcusable Neglect of Indian Department.**

The medical supplies sent last November for the year now past are still lying in the railroad depot at Rawlins, awaiting transportation

E. H. DANFORTH, Agent Utes, 1877.

The greatest drawback to our Indians farming to any extent is the fact that they are entirely without oxen, wagons, harness, plows, and other farm implements, and they complain bitterly of their "Great Father" for not giving them these articles, especially as

they hear of Indians at other agencies receiving them, and they are constantly asking me, "Why cannot we have them?" And when I urge them on to work, their reply is: "How can we work without anything to work with? Give us what we need, and you will see what we can do."

H. E. GREGORY, Agent Lower Brule Sioux, 1877.

V / There have been no agricultural implements here in season for use, except two old plows.

GEO. W. FROST, Crow Agency, Mont., 1878.

No schools nor missionary work has been carried on among the Nevada Indians, for the obvious reason that I have had no funds at my disposal for that purpose. I sincerely regret this, and feel aggrieved when, in my intercourse with them, I see they are so kindly disposed, and manifest such great eagerness and anxiety to learn everything that has the least tendency to make them self-supporting, and good citizens.

A. J. BARNES, Agent, Nevada, 1877.

It is the avowed policy of the Government to make the Indians self-supporting; and yet, I am left without the means to make the initiatory steps for the furtherance of that policy.

W. V. RINEHART, Malheur Agency, Oregon, 1877.

It is a source of regret that at the approach of the sickly season, our supply of necessary and important medicines is exhausted before those for the present fiscal year have arrived.

LEVI WOODARD, Sac and Fox Agency, Ind. Ter., 1878.

My resignation having been tendered some time since, I avail myself of this opportunity to say, that while I have not at any time claimed to have sought or accepted an Indian agency for motives of philanthropy, I did wish and believe that I could be instrumental in doing them good. I supposed that all agencies were located on Indian reservations; that more or less farming was done; that there were schools connected with them, and all reasonable effort made to civilize, educate and Christianize the Indian. Instead of such influences and opportunity for usefulness I found my agency located in a Mexican village, more than

fifty miles from a reservation; and the Indians, when visiting the agency, exposed to all the most demoralizing influences. I have, of course, been disappointed in my expectations.

S. A. RUSSELL, Abiquin Agency, New Mex., 1878.

Depending, as we did, upon the Department at Washington to supply the agency with medicines, and being destitute of them for more than one year after they were promised and expected, subjected us to great inconvenience, and caused us to send a man, at different times, sixty-five miles to obtain what was needed for a particular case.

J. H. WILBUR, Yakama Agency, W. T., 1878.

### Violation of Treaties by the Government.

Just upon the expiration of the treaty providing a blacksmith, a carpenter and a physician, for Congress to have taken from us \$500 of our regular treaty school-fund, is to us almost unaccountable. It weakens our power for good in a most vital point. Christian educational work is surely worth maintaining, if anything can be. I make a most strenuous plea for our treaty rights.

HENRY J. KING, Agent Chippewas, Minn., 1877.

The one boarding-school of the Kiowa and Comanche Agency, which will accommodate seventy-five pupils, is filled, and the other four hundred and twenty-five children are waiting their turn. To comply with treaty stipulations with these two tribes would more than absorb the entire fund appropriated for the civilization and education of all the Indians in the Indian Territory, exclusive of the five civilized tribes. Even more glaring violations of educational clauses in Sioux treaties might be cited.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1878.

The chiefs and head-men are very anxious to educate their boys, and I am constantly referred to the fifth article of the Treaty, and asked why it is not complied with in regard to the establishment of an industrial school; and I can only echo — Why?

PETER RONAN, Flathead Agency, Mont., 1878.

Owing to the withholding of their cash annuities for this year, by Congress, and their disturbed state of mind arising therefrom, I would respectfully suggest that the amount which they have received for the past fourteen years, and which was withheld this, be appropriated early in the next session of Congress, thus fulfilling what was generally understood at the time this treaty was made, to be what was promised by the Government and accepted by this people. Let the great and prosperous American Government act generously toward a weak people who are anxious to adopt the ways of civilized life, and who have always been friendly to the whites; who look to the Government for assistance in their struggle to rise from paganism to civilized life and citizenship.

ASA D. BAKER, Red Lake Agency, Minn., 1878.

In addition to this the railroad is now being constructed upon that portion of the reservation where there can be no dispute as to boundary lines, and the officials claim they have the right of way by Act of Congress, approved June 20th, last. How this right of way can be given without a direct violation of the Fort Bridger Treaty I fail to see.

W. H. DANILSON, Fort Hall, Idaho, 1878.

It does seem that humanity and a due regard for the Nation's plighted faith should have allowed a half-dozen townships to have been kept sacred to the occupancy of these poor people, instead of opening their lands to the occupancy of men who not infrequently take special delight (or seem to) in annoying them, and making their lives unhappy and miserable. They become disheartened and discouraged, dispose of their lands, and seek a new, and, what they hope, may be a more peaceful abode. Their horses and cattle have been shot, and their crops are often destroyed by the white men's cattle and hogs, with other annoyances; all of which demonstrate it is not well for them to live among the white people.

GEO. W. LEE, Mackinaw Agency, Mich., 1878.

They are anxiously awaiting the action of Congress to order the payment of the balance for moneys long since due, which, if paid and properly invested, would place them in comfortable circumstances.

GEO. W. LEE, Mackinaw Agency, Mich., 1878.

The failure of the Department to carry out the provisions of Section 3 of the existing treaty with these Indians has, doubtless had much to do with the successive failures of teachers and agents in the matter of education.

JOHN C. PYLE, Navajo Agency, Arizona, 1878.

We would call attention to the urgent necessity for fulfilling the obligations of the treaty of 1876, which guarantees to these Indians the protection of the United States laws.

REPORT SIOUX COMMISSION, Washington, 1878.

The Chippewas have grievances that would make white men tear their hair and howl, from one end of the country to the other ; but they prefer to submit quietly and peaceably to the powers that be, praying without ceasing, hoping continually that the good men of the Great Father's household will yet hear and answer their petitions by the necessary legislation. If the Government would pay these poor people half what is justly their due under former treaties, they could, and would, live comfortably for many seasons to come.

J. L. MAHAN, La Pointe Agency, Wis., 1878.

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## Unsuitable Reservations Provided for Indians.

The valley in which they are situated is of limited extent, not more than one thousand acres, about one-fourth of which only is capable of cultivation, and for cattle-raising it is unsuited, the hilly surroundings making herding difficult ; indeed, why the site was chosen when so many much better were all around, I am unable to say.

JOHN YOUNG, Blackfeet, Mont., 1877.

The agency is located on Rosebud Creek, about fifteen miles from the Yellowstone, in a southerly direction, and, in my opinion, it could scarcely, all things considered, have been located in a more unfavorable position. Just as good water could have been found, much better soil, and more arable pasture and hay land could have been secured, in many parts of the reservation.

J. W. FROST, Agent Crows, Montana, 1877.



It is difficult to conceive of a location more unsuited to the purposes of an Indian agency than that of Fort Peck.

W. BIRD, Agent, Fort Peck, Mont., 1877.

Inspector McNeil reported that the camping-place selected by the commandant for these Indians, and where he found them, was in the Missouri River Bottom, about two miles above the fort, "between a lagoon and the river, the worst possible place that could have been selected; and the sanitary condition of the Indians proved it." The physician in charge said that "one-half could be said to be sick, and all were affected by the poisonous malaria of the camp."

After the arrival of Joseph and his band, in the Indian Territory, the bad effect of their location at Fort Leavenworth manifested itself in the prostration by sickness at one time of two hundred and sixty out of the four hundred and ten, and within a few months they have lost by death more than one-quarter of the entire number. A little care in the selection of a wholesome location near Fort Leavenworth would have saved very much sickness and many lives.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1878.

The situation of the White River Agency is the worst possible in all respects, unless it should be the intention to keep the Indians as national paupers. It is accessible for teaming only two months in the year; the soil is not good; and why the location was chosen at all for an Indian agency is a profound mystery.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1878.

From the best information I have been able to gather on the subject, I incline to the belief that the natural resources of the reservation are totally inadequate to the support of the tribe; in which opinion I am sustained by all intelligent persons who are conversant with its features. Now, the Navajo would not exchange his desert home for the most favored spot that could be selected elsewhere; and if this reservation is found to be too limited for his necessities, why not give him more desert? Cannot our Government afford to be a little magnanimous, and give to a peaceable and industrious tribe of Indians a few more square miles of barren sands? But I suppose it would be worse than folly to ask more

territory for any tribe, however deserving, from a Government that does not secure to the Indian the peaceable possession of lands already guaranteed to him by solemn treaty stipulation.

JOHN C. PYLE, Navajo Agency, Arizona, 1878.

### No Punishment for Murderers of Indians.

The greatest difficulty that I have experienced in the management of this agency comes from my inability to have justice properly administered. This is owing to the prejudice that exists against Indians in general, and to the want of proper laws and the means of enforcing them on the reservation. For example: Henry Harris, a Winnebago, in good standing, an industrious man and a successful farmer, was employed by Joseph Smith, a white man, to cut wood on his land in Dakota County, a short distance north of the reservation. While alone and thus engaged, on the 29th of last January, Harris was shot through the heart with a rifle-ball. I had his dead body taken before the coroner of the county, and at the inquest held before that officer it was shown, to the satisfaction of the jury that rendered a verdict in accordance therewith, that the Indian came to his death at the hands of one D. Balinska, who had been for many years leading a hermit's life on a tract of land that he owned, adjoining the reservation, and who had threatened Harris's life a few months before when they quarreled about damages for corn destroyed by Balinska's horses. There being snow on the ground at the time of the murder, Balinska was tracked from his home to the place where, under cover, he did the shooting; and his shot-pouch, containing a molded ball of the same weight as the one cut from the body of the Indian, was found near by and identified. Notwithstanding this direct evidence, which was laid before the grand jury of Dakota County, that honorable body was unwilling to find a true bill, for the reason, as I understand, that it was only an Indian that was killed, and it would not be popular to incur the expense of bringing the case to trial. This is but another illustration of the difficulty of punishing a white man for a wrong committed against an Indian.

*The case was dismissed in  
the circuit; on motion of defense  
and for want of jurisdiction.*

I need hardly say that the Indians, when comparing this murder with that of a white man committed eight years ago by five of their young men, who upon less direct evidence were sentenced to imprisonment in the State penitentiary for life, are struck with the wonderful difference in the application of the same law to whites and Indians.

HOWARD WHITE, Winnebago Agency, Neb., 1878.

### \* The Way the Government Educates the Indians.

There are, belonging to the reserve, over one thousand children of the right age to attend school, whereas, our facilities enable us to reach less than one hundred.

J. H. STOUT, Pima Agency, Arizona, 1877.

The principal requirement of the agency is a well-established boarding-school. At present there is neither school nor teachers, and there are over fifteen hundred children, who, as a class, are bright and intelligent. I have spoken to the head-men on the subject, on several occasions, and they appreciate the value of education, and are willing and desirous that the children should be taught.

H. L. HART, San Carlos Agency, Arizona, 1878.

There has been no school in operation among these Indians since September, 1876. They manifest a great desire to have their children educated.

W. R. MATEER, Moquis Pueblo Agency, Arizona, 1878.

I exceedingly regret the fact that no school has been organized at this agency.

JOHN A. WRIGHT, Lemhi Agency, Idaho, 1878.

It will be impossible, however, to educate these Indian children unless larger appropriations are made by Congress for this purpose.

S. R. RIGGS, Missionary, Sisseton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

There are no school-buildings at the agency, nor has any appropriation been made for the purpose, and I have refrained from pressing the matter, knowing that it is the desire of the Department to transfer the lands under my care to some other part of the reservation.

J. B. ABBOTT, Los Pinos Agency, Col., 1878.

It is much to be regretted that we cannot offer facilities to all who desire their children taught. I am satisfied there are many more who would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity to enter their children into the school.

P. B. HUNT, Kiowa and Comanche Agency, 1878.

It is to be regretted that the appropriation should be so inadequate to the wants of these schools.

A. N. MARION, Tulalip Agency, W. T., 1878.

Within the limits of this agency there are fully two hundred Indian children of school age, seven-eighths of whom are growing up in the ignorance and barbarism of their parents. Who is responsible for this? Surely, not these children or their poor, ignorant parents.

R. H. MILROY, Puyallup and other tribes, W. T., 1878.

They have lost faith, and, in consequence of their sufferings from hunger, the men have been forced from the reservation to obtain labor, by which they could purchase necessities for their families, while a large number of squaws have visited the mining-camps for the most degrading of all purposes. In fact, more harm has been done these poor Indians by the Government, within the past year and a half, than can be overcome in five years. I do hope that the next Congress can be led to see the error of its ways, and try and make amends for the past, by making sufficient appropriations for their subsistence and for the completion of the irrigating canal, which, when completed, will enable all the lowland Indians of this territory to become not only self-sustaining, but good citizens.

W. E. MORFORD, Agent, Arizona, 1877.

The annuities and supplies furnished these Indians amount to, at a liberal estimate, not over one-half that required for their support. None of their annuity goods (and but part of their supplies) have reached this agency during the year. Goods purchased in August of last year have been lying in the railroad depot, one hundred and seventy-five miles away, since November last, a period of over nine months. Flour purchased the first of June is still at Rawlins. No clothing, blanket, tent, implement, or utensil of any kind, has been issued at this agency for nearly two years; no flour, except once,—fifteen pounds to a family,—since last May. In addition to the usual proportion of their subsistence, which the Indians provide for themselves, they have had this great deficiency to make up, in whole or in part, some way.

E. H. DANFORTH, Agent Utes, 1877.

In previous Reports the attention of the Department has been called to the starving condition of these Indians, and the absolute necessity of their being provided with even the scanty ration of beef and flour, which was taken away from them three years ago to add to the issues of the San Carlos Indians.

H. R. MALLORY, Colorado River Agency, 1878.

I found a school-room at Wolf Point in the end of a log building, about twenty-four feet square, in which were a few dilapidated benches and a pine-board table, but with few appliances or books, except some first spellers, readers and arithmetics, that had undergone the inundation at Fort Peck, in the spring of 1877.

W. BIRD, Fort Peck, Mont., 1878.

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## Gross Mismanagement and Cruel Treatment of Indians.

But little of civilizing work has been done with the Crows, but all that could be expected from eight different agents in ten years, and with some totally unfitted for their position by instinct, education, and by social surroundings.

GEO. W. FROST, Crow Agency, Mont., 1878.

Here, the usual ill fortune attending the removal of these Indians was again exemplified in placing the agencies on absolutely barren land, where there was no possibility of cultivating the soil, no hope of their being enabled to become self-supporting, and where they have, of necessity, been kept in the hopeless condition of paupers.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1877.

I regret, exceedingly, that I cannot give a more favorable report; but can attribute its dismantled and dilapidated condition to no other cause than misrepresentation, mismanagement, and inefficiency of the agents who have been in charge for the past six years.

R. C. PARKER, Agent, Cal., 1877.

There is not enough tillable land to cultivate.

JAMES IRWIN, Agent Red Cloud, Neb., 1877.

It is not the fault of these Indians that they are not, to-day, self-supporting. They have been left by the paternal Government without a home, and compelled to become wanderers, by being driven from place to place, when they have attempted to locate and cultivate the soil. They have, through me, been for almost four years *begging for a home*—a place where they could farm and have schools for their children. It has thus far been denied them.

S. A. RUSSELL, Abiquin Agency, New Mex., 1878.

He states that years ago the Shoshones were promised a reservation in Ruby Valley, but subsequently the same land was sold to the whites, and nothing more was said about the reservation; and since that time all the valuable land, water and timber in his country, have been disposed of to the whites.

LEVI A. GHEEN, Shoshone Agency, Nev., 1878.

In purchasing their lands about Vermillion Lake, in 1866, the Government seems to have had but one idea in view, to wit: "To get rid of the Indians." They have been banished to perhaps the most wretched of all lands, or rocks, in Northern Minnesota. Their treaty stipulates that a farmer shall be provided. A farmer! Think of it—on such a rock! One would infer from reading it (the Treaty) that they had a garden spot, but the explorers not a spot upon which to plant a potato.

J. L. MAHAN, La Pointe Agency, Wis., 1878.

## Causes of Trouble with Indians.

I am satisfied that some of the complaints originate in the desire of certain parties to create a sentiment unfavorable to the Indian, and precipitate a trouble which may be made the occasion of depriving the Indians of some of their rights.

E. H. DANFORTH, Agent Utes, 1877.

The chief difficulty with which I have had to contend since assuming charge of this agency, has been in reconciling the Indians to the presence of certain squatters in the Uncapahgre Park, which is situated about sixteen miles from the agency, and is adjacent to the town of Ouray.

W. D. WHEELER, Agent Utes, 1877.

A failure, on the part of the Government, to keep faith with the Indians, is the cause of most of our troubles with them. The wisest man that ever lived has said, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." It is as true to-day as when first spoken.

J. L. BURCHARD, Agent, Round Valley, Cal., 1877.

I have, in one instance, received a complaint from a farmer, stating that the Indian horses had entered his fields and done some damage; and while riding to the spot, in order to investigate the matter, I found his stock feasting on the Indian's garden.

F. C. GODFREY, Agent Apaches, New Mex., 1877.

It is a lamentable fact that men are to be found who deem it their high privilege to shoot, at sight, any Indian they may find away from his reservation; and another large class, though they may not justify, will not condemn such conduct. During the late trouble in Idaho it has been unsafe for any Indian to be seen off his reservation; and even the most trustworthy of them are unable to get the little ammunition necessary to enable them to procure game for a living. I am thus forced to feed many who are only too willing to subsist themselves, if they were permitted to do so.

W. V. RINEHART, Malheur Agency, Oregon, 1877.

If these Indians ever go on the war-path, it will be from encroachment on their reservation.

GEO. W. FROST, Crow Agency, Mont., 1878.

On account of this order for the removal of stock from the reserve, a movement was at once set on foot, by the settlers, for cutting off the western portion, upon which they are trespassing, and opening it to settlement. It is simply a repetition of the old story, to which nearly every agency might contribute a chapter.

W. V. RINEHART, Malheur Agency, Oregon, 1878.

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### Progress Hindered by Fear of Removal.

The progress of these people in the way of opening of farms by individuals, is materially hindered by the feeling of uncertainty, induced by an agitation, from time to time, of the subject of removing them and the agency to a more suitable location, or of the consolidation of this with some other agency more favorably located for agricultural pursuits.

THEO. SCHWUN, Cheyenne, Dakota, 1878.

The Indians state to me that they feel "bad" when they look at the uncertainty of the future, which they fully appreciate.

LEVI A. GHEEN, Shoshone Agency, Nev., 1878.

It is unnatural to expect of them a satisfactory development of home interests while their lands are subject to the whims and speculations of a dominant race, or their place of abode to the caprice of fancy, ungoverned by intelligent business considerations or associated domestic economy.

J. W. GRIEST, Otoe Agency, Neb., 1878.

One great source of discouragement and uneasiness is the constant apprehension that some radical change, either in their location or in the administration of their affairs, will take place, and thus interfere with all their industrial pursuits. They are afraid that this reservation will be thrown open to white settlers, they be removed to some other place, and thus lose all their labor. They have for two years heard exaggerated reports on this subject; hence, their uneasiness is not strange or unnatural.

J. J. CRITCHLON, Uintah Valley Agency, Utah, 1878.



There is an uneasy feeling manifested among these Indians, and an anxiety to know what the policy of the Government will be toward them, upon the expiration of the Treaty, next year. They are aware that the press and people of this section of the country are clamorous for their removal, and charge them with being in sympathy with the hostiles, notwithstanding the fact of their having killed Eigan, the war-chief of the hostiles, and twenty-five others, and having captured thirty-five women and children and two bands of horses.

W. A. CORNOYER, Toledo, Oregon, 1878.

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### Desire of Indians for Improvement.

I think most of the Indians would wear citizens' dress could they afford it; but it is much more expensive than their own costume, and difficult for them to procure.

E. H. DANFORTH, Agent Utes, 1877.

The recent visit of the Sioux chiefs at Washington was remarkable for the earnest unanimity with which they besought the Government for implements of agriculture, for cattle, and for schools for their children.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1877.

They furnish ample provisions for the education of their children, having fifty-four day schools, one boarding and one manual-labor school, at which there are about twelve hundred pupils in attendance.

S. W. MARSTON, Agent Choctaws, 1877.

They have expended for schools, the past year, \$43,000, which is the amount available each year, being the interest on their invested funds set apart for school purposes. Their school buildings, with their fixtures, are valued at \$50,000.

S. W. MARSTON, Agent Chickasaws, 1877.

The only recommendations that I would make, would be to furnish them with a school-teacher, which they are anxious to have with them.

ALEX. J. IRVINE, Agent Navajas, 1877.

In his Report, which will be found on page 173, Captain Pratt states that he could with ease have secured three thousand Indian children for the school, so anxious are the parents to have their children educated. One Indian woman would not let her daughter go alone, and she therefore accompanied her, and remains at Hampton to watch over her. The anxiety displayed by the Indians to have their children educated, suggests the establishment of industrial schools of like character more convenient to the Indian population of the country, where their education might be carried forward on a more extensive scale.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1878.

They talk about education with increasing interest, and schools properly conducted will be successful. A house 18 by 24 was built late last fall, mostly by Indians, and school taught part of the winter by Rev. John Robinson, under the auspices of Bishop Hare, with good results, a number having in that time learned to read and write.

JAMES IRWIN, Red Cloud Agency, Dakota, 1878.

Let the Government be careful not to infringe upon the natural right of every man to provide for himself and family. This is what the young American, starting out in life, calls "taking care of himself." Every man needs this incentive to industry, but especially the Indian. Many wonder why the Flandreau Indians ever left the old agency — free rations and gray suits. If they could go into their hearts, they would find it was that same longing "to be one's own," or "for freedom," as we are accustomed to say, which led the Puritans to Plymouth Rock. And now let them have it, to the verge of starvation, and may it make of them as sterling a race as the descendants of the Puritans. What belongs to these Indians as their due, give them as endowments, for educational institutions or as outfits for farming, but not in food or clothing.

J. P. WILLIAMSON, Flandreau Agency, Dakota, 1878.

It is to be hoped that the increasing desire evinced by the Indians for the education of their children, may be encouraged, and help increased by liberal appropriations.

C. A. RUFFEE, Chippewa Agency, Minn., 1878.

The Shawnee Indians have about one hundred and twenty children of suitable school age, and they are anxious to have their children educated.

LEVI WOODARD, Sac and Fox Agency, Ind. Ter., 1878.

All of them wear the same dress as citizens, and seem anxious to reason and act and talk like white men.

A. J. BARNES, Nevada Agency, 1878.

No community of white people could have been more earnest and zealous in requiring the regular attendance of their children, neatly clad, and inciting them to study earnestly, in order to get an education.

EDWIN EELLS, S'Kokomish Agency, W. T., 1878.

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### Robbery of Property of Indians.

If the people would reflect on the fact that the Sioux were, a few years ago, a powerful, independent, self-sustaining nation, and have been brought to poverty by the loss of their country and the destruction of their game, they would certainly have charity enough to be patient, if they knew the work of reconstruction was radical and certain, and a prospect of relief in the future.

JAMES IRWIN, Agent Red Cloud, Neb., 1877.

The cutting of cord-wood on this reservation by white men, to fill Government contracts and supply steamboats, has provoked a very bad feeling among our Indians. They have, in council, denounced the Indian Department for not issuing a peremptory order prohibiting all wood-contractors, or their employés, from going into our already much depleted forests to cut down the timber at such places, and in such quantities, as suits their own convenience, without any compensation to the Indians.

W. T. HUGHES, Agent Standing Rock, Dakota, 1877.

Depredations by horse-thieves have been frequent and grievous. Many have lost their entire stock.

A. C. WILLIAMS, Agent Wichitas, 1877.

A party of Texans, under the pretext of searching for horses stolen from them by the Indians, were shown by my direction through the Indian camps; but they were, as they say, unable to find any of their horses. The next night they surrounded the weakest camp, fired on the Indians (fortunately without effect), and drove off all the horses they could collect (thirteen), the others having scattered during the firing. This raid was allowed to go unpunished. F. C. GODFREY, Agent Apaches, New Mex., 1877.

The state of disquiet among the tribes north of us has not been participated in by the Klamaths. They have their own grievances, which are serious, and a great deal of patience and forbearance on their part is shown. They claim that "There are lands offered for sale and purchased and occupied by white settlers which in reality belong by treaty to them, and it is injustice to deprive them of these lands." J. H. ROOCK, Agent Klamaths, Oregon, 1877.

With few exceptions they are a quiet, peaceable, well-disposed people. Quarrels and contentions among themselves are infrequent, and not a single instance has come to my knowledge of violence or crime committed by them against the person or property of the whites settled along the borders of their reservations, or even against the squatters, who knowingly, and in defiance of all rights and justice, and even the authorities of the Government, have encroached upon, and taken possession of, their most fertile lands.

J. B. ABBOTT, Los Pinos Agency, Col., 1878.

Large trespasses have been committed, from year to year, upon these lands, to which the attention of the proper officers has been called; but still the work of robbery and destruction goes on unchecked. GEO. W. LEE, Mackinaw Agency, Mich., 1878.

The Indians are much discouraged by these raids, and seem to think too little effort has been made to recover their property.

P. B. HUNT, Kiowa and Comanche Agency, 1878.

The white settlers alluded to in my first Annual Report still remain on the reservation, being located on their several claims, increasing their stock and improvements, and, of course, still further encroaching on the Indians' rights.

JAMES I. PATTEN, Shoshone Agency, Wyoming, 1878.

## Want of Missionaries.

There have been no missionaries, nor any missionary work attempted, among these Indians, that I can learn of.

W. R. MATEER, Moquis Pueblo Agency, Arizona, 1878.

I am sorry to say that the missionary work on this reserve has been very limited. There has been no minister located here as missionary for over two years.

J. B. MONTIETH, Nez Perces, Idaho, 1878.

I am loath to inform you that no missionary effort has been made during the past year, and yet I do not know of a better field of labor than this agency. Certainly, American people should prefer to put forth efforts for the salvation of heathen and wicked men on our own soil, rather than expend so much in Africa, India and other remote parts of the earth, while these people are so utterly neglected.

JOHN A. WRIGHT, Lemhi Agency, Idaho, 1878.

No missionary work has been performed among the Utes during the period of my administration.

J. B. ABBOTT, Los Pinos Agency, Col., 1878.

The want of a Christian minister has been urged on the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which this agency has a right to look, and it is to be hoped that if the condition of their funds permits, the want may be supplied.

JOHN YOUNG, Blackfeet Agency, Mont., 1878.

Correspondence has been held, and the attention of churches and missionaries has been called, to the fact there is a wide field for labor among these Indians, and that all possible support and protection will be given to any representative who may come among them and work. But, as yet, none have accepted the trust, it always ending in refusal when it is ascertained that no appropriation is made for the labor performed.

THOMAS S. FREE, Sac and Fox Agency, Iowa, 1878.

No missionary or religious instruction has ever been provided by the church which has the nominal control in these matters, apart from the efforts of the agent, and employes and their families. J. J. CRITCHLOW, Uintah Valley Agency, Utah, 1878.

## Rapid Advancement of Indians.

The advancement made during the past year by the wilder portion of these Indians, in the arts of peace, has been very marked and exceedingly encouraging.

A. C. WILLIAMS, Agent Wichitas, 1877.

In their council may be found men of learning and ability; and it is doubtful if their rapid progress from a state of wild barbarism to that of civilization and enlightenment has any parallel in the history of the world. What required five hundred years for the Britons to accomplish in this direction they have accomplished in one hundred years.

S. W. MARSTON, Agent Cherokees, 1877.

The Indians, who have been living on the reserve for some years, have steadily advanced in civilized pursuits, as can be readily seen by any one who takes an interest in Indian advancement. There are many who ridicule the idea of civilizing and Christianizing an Indian, and by word and deed oppose anything of the kind. Such are opposed to the Indians receiving any consideration whatever, but would like to see the whole Indian race exterminated, making no distinction between good and bad Indians.

J. B. MONTIETH, Agent Nez Perces, 1877.

Indian civilization is no longer a myth, a problem to be solved by a wise man, but a *reality*.

J. L. MAHAN, Red Cliff Reserve, Wis., 1877.

A new impulse has seized them to take up quarter sections of land and secure for themselves permanent homesteads.

J. W. DOUGLAS, Yankton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

The progress made among the boys since the opening of their school, May 1, 1877, has been perfectly marvelous, many of them now being able to converse in English quite well, and can spell, read, write and cipher, with as much facility as the average of white children of corresponding ages that have been at school for two years. The girls are also doing remarkably well, and we expect to

see them compare, in their studies and advancement, very favorably with the boys, at the expiration of another year. Boarding-schools for Indian children at all of the agencies should be encouraged, and Congress ought to be liberal in making appropriations for their support.

W. T. HUGHES, Standing Rock, Dakota, 1878.

All of our Indians and half-breeds, with but few exceptions (and these generally confined to very old people), wear citizens' dress, and live in very comfortable houses, generally made of hewn logs, and provided with stoves, tables, seats and other housekeeping conveniences. There are, however, several frame-houses occupied by the Indians, some of which are two stories high and well painted.

S. R. RIGGS, Missionary, Sisseton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

The Flandreau Indians are citizens, and are, without doubt, the most advanced in civilization of any portion of the Sioux nation. They pay taxes, and very cheerfully, considering how high, we might say how exorbitant, some of them are. Their total taxation last year amounted to about eight hundred dollars. They go to the ballot-box with their white neighbors, and appreciate the privilege very highly. It has an elevating influence upon the Indians themselves, and, on the other hand, gives them the respect which they need in the eyes of their white neighbors. They nearly all read their own language, and vote as understandingly as a large class of foreign voters. They all live in houses very similar to their white neighbors, and dress like them. A large proportion have received their patents for land, and so are property-owners.

J. P. WILLIAMSON, Flandreau Agency, Dakota, 1878.

I know that the most reflective men among them are accepting the principles of revealed religion.

M. H. NEWLIN, Agency, Kansas, 1878.

The time has come, I think, when the issue of daily rations to the Navajoes, excepting to a limited number,—laborers at the agency and those of the infirm who are within reach,—should be discontinued, as demoralizing in its tendency. If they are to receive anything further from the Government, let it come in such shape as will

help them to help themselves. Give them cattle, sheep, agricultural implements and seeds, and do more for their education, and by these means they will the sooner become self-sustaining. The Navajos are a nation of workers. The drones are very, very few. They are, as a rule, provident. The few thousand sheep given them a few years ago have increased to hundreds of thousands.

JOHN C. PYLE, Navajo Agency, Arizona, 1878.

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### Valuable Services Rendered by Indians.

This great result has been mainly accomplished by Spotted Tail. He has, though an Indian, untutored and uncivilized, been the means of saving hundreds of lives, and thousands of dollars of treasury to the Government. What reward or recognition he is entitled to for accomplishing this grand result I leave for those in power to determine.

J. M. LEE, Spotted Tail, Neb., 1877.

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### Good Character of Indians.

I say "temperance," because I have not known of a single case of drunkenness by any member of the tribes under my charge during the past year; and, owing to pretty strict rules on this subject having been enforced in the past, but little intoxicating drink has been introduced on the reservation.

J. D. MILES, Agent Cheyennes, 1877.

Their habits are good. They are as industrious as any people who have had no better opportunity to learn, and cultivate a pride to excel in industry and civilized arts. They are inclined to live peaceably with all mankind, and would have no trouble, and make none, if it were not for a few designing and mischief-making people living among them.

LEWIS STOWE, Chippewa Agency, Minn., 1877.



The Ottawa and Chippewa Indians are naturally honest and scrupulously conscientious in keeping their word, and expect the same scrupulous exactness in the fulfillment of all engagements made to them, especially by the Government.

G. W. LEE, Mackinaw, Mich., 1877.

Less crimes have been committed by them the past year than by the same number of whites. I have not known a drunken Indian upon the agency during the year.

J. H. WILBUR, Yakama Agency, W. T., 1877.

I believe it can be shown that no Indian tribe in which education and Christianity have been introduced have given our Government any trouble by war.

R. H. MILROY, Agent, W. T., 1877.

The Sabbath is generally regarded by them as a day of rest, and more strictly observed as such than by the white settlers in the frontier towns. No intoxicating liquors are used by the Indians on the reserve.

E. H. C. HOOPER, Sisseton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

Considering their location, it has been a subject of remark that no crimes have been committed by them against the whites or among themselves for the last three years.

THOMAS S. FREE, Sac and Fox Agency, Iowa, 1878.

Situated as they are, in a flourishing farming community, they have become well informed regarding their relations to the whites, and have been very peaceable and quiet. No crimes have been committed, while they have advanced in the knowledge and disposition to labor, and have made many friends. Nearly all of the able-bodied men have been employed during harvest, receiving good wages and make good laborers.

THOMAS S. FREE, Sac and Fox Agency, Iowa, 1878.

Another favorable indication is that they show a more correct appreciation of the rights of individual property, and a desire to accumulate.

P. B. HUNT, Kiowa and Comanche Agency, 1878.

The Santees are nearly all professors of religion. There are six places for worship, which are generally attended on First day.

ISAIAH LIGHTNER, Santee Agency, Neb., 1878.

They say that they have been faithful on their part in complying with their promises and obligations to the Government, and intend to continue to be so ; and they ask a reciprocal compliance on the part of the Government, with its promises and treaties with them. They are often disturbed by rumors and probabilities of changes, either of their homes or their management, and they feel that either would be great injustice, especially without their free and unenforced consent. They are quick to discriminate between justice and injustice, and they say they want to live in undisturbed peace on their own rightful possessions, and in friendship with their white neighbors ; which is certainly asking no more than a generous and just humanity would accord to them.

JACOB VORE, Nemaha Agency, Neb., 1878.

Their conduct, all along, has given the lie to all that has been said against them, and proves that the efforts made to civilize and Christianize them have not been in vain, and makes me still more proud of them.

JOHN SMITH, Warm Springs Agency, Oregon, 1878.

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## The Way the Government Robs the Indians.

These people also claim to have been overreached in a more recent Act of Congress (passed in 1870), wherein provision was made for the disposition of their entire diminished reserve, in Kansas. This law gives (without consideration to the owners) to the State of Kansas every sixteenth and thirty-sixth section of land for school purposes. This grant amounts to nearly four hundred thousand acres. The Indians are not disposed to question the right of the General Government to extend educational aid to the newly-settled states of the West, but they do question the propriety of such magnificent donations made by a great Government to a wealthy State, at the exclusive expense of a weak, dependent tribe of Indians, themselves the wards of said Government.

CYRUS BEEDE, Agent Osages, 1877. /

This blunder, by which the Indians of that treaty have been defrauded out of at least fifty thousand dollars, was mentioned in my last Annual Report (see Report Commissioners of Indian Affairs for 1876, p. 138), also in my Report as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Washington Territory, for 1873, page 303. In the name of justice, I demand that an appropriation be made for the payment of this money, out of which these poor Indians were wronged by our Government, through her officials, near twenty-eight years ago, and that this money be applied, as mentioned in my last Annual Report, to purposes of education.

R. H. MILROY, Agent, W. T., 1877.

It is a fact known to every intelligent man who has been with Indians on the frontier, that the most damaging effects have heretofore resulted from broken promises made by the Government and its officials, causing the greater part of the troubles with the Sioux since the treaty of 1868. It is true the Government has spent large sums in feeding them, but it has driven them, contrary to treaty promises, from place to place, each time taking more of their territory, until nothing is left them but the "bad lands." The military has taken an immense number of arms and horses from them, and promised to return their value in cows. It would be well to have this matter investigated.

JAMES IRWIN, Red Cloud Agency, Dakota, 1878.

They are very importunate in the manner of the investment and payment of interest upon the twenty thousand dollars' balance due them on account of sale of a township belonging to them in 1873. I would suggest that it be made a matter of attention at the meeting of the next session of the present Congress, that the bill now pending upon this subject be considered and passed, as there is no good reason why they should not have the income from the money due them.

GEO. W. LEE, Mackinaw Agency, Mich., 1878.

It was hoped by selling one hundred and twenty thousand acres of the reservation, as provided by a bill enacted for the purpose in 1876, that sufficient would have been realized from the sale before this time to place the tribe on a comfortable footing, financially, and to pay for many needed improvements. But, as is often the case, where the property of Indians is at stake, through a lameness in

the law, or a misinterpretation of its provisions, the Indians have realized nothing from the intended sale. While, at the same time, the larger part of the land is occupied by squatters, towns have been planted, villages are growing up, and the mart of trade has been opened upon it, yet but few, comparatively, have signified any intention of paying for the lands they occupy, and those who would be purchasers are debarred by such occupancy.

J. W. GRIEST, Otoe Agency, Neb., 1878.

### Indian Children Equal to the White in Capacity.

They are generally diligent in their studies, and when they have learned to speak English, I think learn as rapidly as white children do.

M. H. NEWLIN, Agent, Kansas, 1877,

It is the united testimony of all the teachers who have been associated with these Indian children in educational matters, that they are equally as quick to acquire a knowledge of the rudiments of learning as are white children.

M. B. KENT, Agent Sac and Fox, Neb., 1877.

The attendance, though not unusually large, has been remarkably regular; the best of discipline has been maintained, and the pupils have made marked improvements in every branch of their studies, and are rapidly becoming more neat in their habits and dress, and will compare favorably with any white school of even numbers and equal advantages.

P. B. SINOTT, Agent, Oregon, 1877.

The testimony of the teacher, who has had many years' experience in teaching white children, is that some of these Indian children made more rapid progress than any she had previously taught, showing conclusively that they have active intellect, and that the influences of a well-regulated boarding-school will, in a short time, change materially the habits of the Indian children, and, in time, as a consequence, effect a change in the tribe.

J. W. GRIEST, Otoe Agency, Neb., 1878.

## Evils of Present System.

The true interests of the Indians are not always in harmony with the personal interests of the traders.

INDIAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1877.

It is to be regretted that a more favorable sentiment toward the Indian Department does not prevail in Congress. But as Congress is the outgrowth of public sentiment, we must infer that public sentiment demands, or it would not sustain, their unfavorable action. So long as the Indian question remains without advocates other than those in the pulpit or in the Indian service, we have little to hope for in the way of favorable action or friendly sentiment in Congress. The moralist, the philanthropist and Christian, may cordially unite in their sentiments of friendship for these degraded wards of the nation, the missionary societies may drain their contribution-boxes, and their missionaries themselves may prosecute their self-sacrificing labor in vain, while the politician in the halls of Congress carries his dislike for the unfortunate Indian into the treatment of the Indian question, and even beyond it, to the unpopular Department of the Government having charge of this unprofitable matter.

W. V. RINEHART, Malheur Agency, Oregon, 1877.

Is it just that agents should be held accountable for the civilization of the Indians when they are prevented, by public parsimony, from providing a shelter that will make the Indian feel that the old life was barbarous and undesirable? And, again, is it sensible to expect the Indian to feel like a man when he is forced to continue the life of a beast, placed under a galling restraint, and allowed a ration so scanty as to put him in the position of a half-fed pauper?

W. V. RINEHART, Malheur Agency, Oregon, 1877.

Neither the Indians nor any other persons have, in general, any right to open mines or quarry stone upon reservations, except, perhaps, in a few cases, where the object may be to secure stone for building purposes, coal for fuel, and petroleum for light.

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, 1878, p. 487.

Indians can command higher wages by from one hundred to two hundred per cent more than the Department is willing to allow them, as day-laborers in this section. The Department is willing to pay only fifty cents a day for Indian labor, and the Indian must board himself. Such as are capable of performing work in the harvest-field, assist in logging or cutting wood, can command from one to two dollars per day.

JOHN B. MONTIETH, Nez Perces, Idaho, 1878.

I would respectfully suggest that, hereafter, persons employed as physicians on any Indian reservation shall be graduates of some medical college, and have the necessary diplomas.

C. A. RUFFEE, Chippewa Agency, Minn., 1878.

The frequent changes in the treatment and modes of managing and governing the Indians are derogatory to their progress in civilization and self-reliance.

JACOB VORE, Nemaha Agency, Neb., 1878.

### **Attachment of Indians to their Homes.**

They are very much attached to their homes.

J. E. COLBURN, Agent, San Bernardino, 1877.

They are ardently attached to their reservation and their homes, and any intimations of change excites emotions of uneasiness and grief.

JACOB VORE, Agent Omahas, 1877.

They are much attached to their homes, and dislike the idea of removal.

A. G. IRVINE, Agent Navajos, 1877.

The Indians are undoubtedly anxious to secure peace and permanent homes.

JAMES IRWIN. Red Cloud Agency, Dakota, 1878.

They possess a strong desire to acquire more land, and will purchase more if not removed, as it renders them more permanent and independent in providing for their wants, and serves to keep them together. They have strong local attachments for their present home, and desire to remain, as many associations are connected with their residence here. The question of their removal has been presented to them, and they firmly refuse to consider it, and say that they will not be removed except by force.

THOMAS S. FREE, Sac and Fox Agency, Iowa, 1878.

They had sense enough to make a treaty, and they have sense enough to know when the treaty is violated. They have great love and veneration for their homes and the graves of their kindred and friends; any attempt to move them forcibly would cause trouble.

OLIVER WOOD, Quinalet Agency, W. T., 1878.

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## Will the Indian Work?

The Indians are peaceable and well-disposed, and many of them are industrious and willing to work. They complain bitterly about their stock and farming implements being taken away and sold to white men.

R. C. PARKER, Agent, Cal., 1877.

Many of them are now trying to cultivate patches of land along the little streams adjacent to the agency. Some of them have used their hands for shovels and hoes, and have shown them to me, worn and bleeding.

JAMES IRWIN, Agent Red Cloud, Neb., 1877.

The Yanktons, now, are very ambitious to raise wheat, and have been breaking much land this summer, for next year's crop. Besides, they are cutting a very large amount of grass, to supply their stock with hay the coming winter, exhibiting, in this way, more than ever, providence and thrift.

J. W. DOUGLAS, Yankton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

The question, "Will Indians work?" I feel we can answer in the affirmative, as far as the Yanktons are concerned. The entire work of this agency is performed by Indians and half-castes.

J. G. GASMANN, Yankton, Sioux, 1877.

The Indians appear very much delighted with having plenty of land to cultivate in future, and have shown a determination to work their farms this season to the best of their ability.

W. T. HUGHES, Standing Rock, Dakota, 1877.

During the great heat of the past harvest season the men have worked from twelve to fourteen hours per day, and are yet continuing to do so in the hay-field. I can, at any time, hire at least two hundred men of these Indians, who would gladly work in this manner and never complain of it as a hardship. I am daily importuned by them for work, and it is an unusual thing for one either to strike for higher wages or quit before he is discharged.

J. G. GASMANN, Agent Yanktons, Dakota, 1877.

These Indians are anxious to work, and it seems peculiarly unfortunate that the Department is not supplied with funds sufficient to help them when they are so worthy.

J. L. MAHAN, Red Cliff Reserve, Wis., 1877.

They have exemplified their willingness to work, and during all their adversity have manifested a courage not more than equaled by the strongest-hearted white man in the land.

JAMES I. PATTEN, Shoshone and Bannock Agency, 1877.

Those Indians located on small tracts of land are usually considerate of their farming interests. Some are even models of industry, working harder and more hours per day than the average white man.

C. G. BELKNAP, Jule River Agency, Cal., 1878.

Now, none are ashamed to labor, and in passing through the reservation it looks like a settlement of well-to-do frontier farmers, only, the Indians' fences are more uniformly and substantially constructed than those of any frontier white settlers that I have seen.

JAMES McLAUGHLIN, Agent Sioux, Dakota, 1878.



Contrary to the popular impression, I believe that the Indian will work patiently and continuously, if the fruits of his labor are secured to him.

J. W. DOUGLAS, Yankton Agency, Dakota, 1878.

Our Indians, with few exceptions, have worked at their farms, comprising about eight hundred acres, splendidly, this year.

W. T. HUGHES, Standing Rock, Dakota, 1878.

The young men are more tractable and willing to work, and anxious, in many cases, to learn and excel.

H. SWIFT, Missionary, Cheyenne, 1878.

It is to be regretted that not more employment, of the kind described, can be found for the Indians, a great proportion of whom are always willing to work, at very moderate compensation.

THEO. SCHWUN, Cheyenne, Dakota, 1878.

They have broken four hundred and sixty acres of new land during the past year, and are taking an increased interest in their farm work. This has been brought about by the hope that Congress will pass an act allowing them to take homesteads on these lands that they are improving.

ISAIAH LIGHTNER, Santee Agency, Neb., 1878.

Our experience, so far as members of this tribe are concerned, has demonstrated the fact that Indians may become successful laborers; that the same incentives which induce white men to labor will also induce Indians; viz., necessity, and a direct personal interest in their labor.

J. W. GRIEST, Otoe Agency, Neb., 1878.

Every family who has the means of cultivating it, has a fenced field, or farm, which they attend in the most creditable manner.

JACOB VORE, Nemaha Agency, Neb., 1878.

They have shown an earnestness in the work of improving their farms which might be profitably imitated by many of the white persons who ridicule the idea that Indians can be civilized.

N. A. CORNOYER, Toledo, Oregon, 1878.

The Indians of the agency are now living upon their farms, and cultivating their lands, and following the avocation of farmers, much the same as white farmers, on a small scale, the average number of acres cultivated by a single Indian or family being from twenty-five to fifty acres, while quite a number of them cultivate as high as fifty to one hundred acres.

T. B. SINNOTT, Grand Ronde Agency, Oregon, 1878.

With much pleasure and pride I was enabled, last year, to speak of a marked increase in the spirit of thrift, as shown in efforts put forth by the Oneidas, in enlarged farms and more careful attention to their crops than in previous years. This year the increase is still more noticeable, and their improvement in this respect is worthy of much commendation, and great cause of rejoicing among the friends of the Indians; and while they keenly feel the injustice done them by the inaction of the Government in not providing for the allotments of their lands, and granting them citizenship, which they often, and loudly, call for, they have industriously sown their seed and are now reaping a bountiful harvest, as a result of their labor.

J. C. BRIDGMAN, Green Bay Agency, Wis., 1878:











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